Saturday, November 5, 2011 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 330 P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON/REGM INQ to 4467

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FEARLESS VIEWS

INQUIRER 990AM

Military no longer honors 'ATS' anywhere

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE SO-CALLED "zone of temporary stay" for Muslim rebels in Al-Barka, Basilan, where 19 soldiers were killed in an ambush last month no longer exists, according to Army chief Lt. Gen. Arturo Ortiz.

This temporary arrangement that was set up with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) during a military operation years ago will not stop the military from pursuing those responsible for the Oct. 10 killing of 19 Special Forces troops, even if those outlaws are inside these ATS or so-called "MILF-influenced communities," said Ortiz.

The military no longer recognizes any ATS for the MILF anywhere and officially recognizes only seven MILF camps in Maguindanao, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur provinces as

MILITARY, A11

Bishops hit P-Noy over doles to rebels / A11

RARE BIRDS American Ambassador Harry Thomas entices a penguin with a fish at the Manila Ocean Park's Trails to Antarctica walk-through exhibit on Friday. It features nine Humboldt penguins, the only ones in the country, which can be viewed through a glass wall by guests. Behind is presidential nephew James "Bimby" Aquino Yap being held by a security man as they try to catch the attention of another penguin. [See story on Page A8.] LYN RAMOS

Ramona leaves for HK

No hold-departure order vs suspect in brod's slay

By Tina G. Santos, Miko Morales and DJ Yap

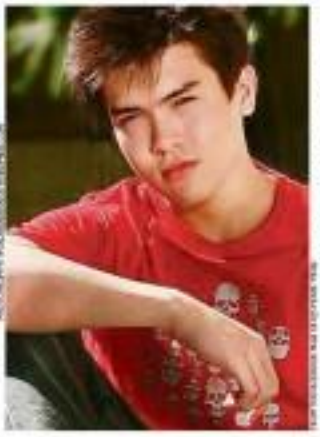
ONE OF the suspects in the killing of actor Rustgen Bautista left for Hong Kong on Friday evening, two airport sources told the INQUIRER.

Maria Ramona "Mona" Bautista, a younger sister of Rustgen, boarded Cathay Pacific Flight CX 902 bound for Hong Kong at around 9 p.m., according to an official at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, who requested anonymity.

Immigration authorities said that although they are aware of Ramona's alleged involvement in the killing, they explained they could not stop her from leaving because no "hold-departure order" or any court order had been issued against her.

Ramona, with her head partly covered by a scarf, was reportedly escorted by a man at the departure area of the Nida Terminal 1 around 6:20 p.m., said another source, who declined to

RAMONA, A10



TURNAROUND Ramona Bautista (above) changed her story on her abduction which raises more questions like why she was seen in a mall 3 hours after the attack. Police want to know why she didn't go to nearest precinct to report the crime. Her younger brother RJ Bautista (right) is now in jail.

Bong: I'm not senator of Revillas but of PH

By Cathy C. Yaroson

PARRYING criticism from family members for not intervening in the arrest of his half-brother, Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. said: "I am a senator not of the Revilla family but of the entire Philippines."

In an exclusive interview with the Inquirer, Revilla Jr. yesterday said preventing police officers from questioning Ramon Joseph "RJ" Bautista in connection with the Oct. 28 murder of the latter's oldest sibling, Rustgen Bautista, would

BONG, A10

WHAT'S INSIDE

ACROSS
P-Noy stops Luisita toll fees / A15

BUSINESS
Inflation surged to 5.2% in October / B1

NEWS
DFA: No passport processing Nov. 7 / A5

NEWS
P-Noy's wish for his critics in YouTube World View interview/ A2

DOH: Just theories till detailed study done

TOXIC TAXIS
SPECIAL REPORT

By Jocelyn R. Uy and TJ Burgonio

(Third of a series)

FOR SEVERAL years now, the Department of Health (DOH) has been hearing stories of taxi drivers supposedly falling ill due to extended exposure to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) fumes.

But up to now, these stories are considered "theories" in the absence of scientific evidence that would directly link inhalation of LPG fumes to a range of health problems particularly among taxi drivers, according to health undersecretary Teodoro Herbosa.

"We really need detailed studies before we can make a conclusion," Herbosa said in a phone interview. "As of now, those are just theories by taxi drivers and until there is hard evidence, DOH cannot act on a policy."

Without proper study, Herbosa said, it would be reckless to pin down LPG fumes as the main culprit behind the respiratory illnesses afflicting these drivers who are exposed to a variety of other unhealthy conditions.

DOH JUST, A8

OMG, CIA tracking Twitter, Facebook

MCLEAN, Virginia—In an anonymous industrial park in Virginia, in an unassuming brick building, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is following tweets—up to 5 million a day.

At the agency's Open Source Center, a team known affectionately as the "vengeful librarians" also pores over Facebook, newspapers, TV news channels, local radio stations, Inter-

OMG, CIA TO, A13

HISTORIC YOUTUBE APPEARANCE President Aquino welcomes Google executive Ross Lajkonezon during the YouTube Worldview Interview in Malacañang on Friday. The Philippine President is the first Asian head of state to participate in the Worldview series. [See story on Page A2.] MALACAÑANG PHOTO BUREAU

GMA travel hangs on legal, medical, political factors

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Aquino is worried that there could be a "political fallout" for him if he allows his predecessor, Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to go abroad for medical treatment and she does not return to face prosecution for alleged corruption and electoral fraud.

This is the question that is constantly weighing on Mr. Aquino who has to make the final decision on Arroyo's travel plans after the former President was placed on the immigration watch list, effectively barring her from leaving, by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

GMA TRAVEL, A11

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

PCSO

22 17 27 21 25 23

6/49 LOTTO

0 1 7 8 4 8

4D LOTTO

4 7 6 0 9 2 7

MEGA LOTTO 6/45

11 20 25 31 35 40

P17,921,788.40

LOTTO 3D/2D | 6D LOTTO | 4D LOTTO | MEGA LOTTO 6/45

P-Noy's X'mas wish: No more pointless criticism

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday made known to netizens worldwide his Christmas wish: That people would stop "criticizing anything and everything" and be more cooperative and caring.

Participating in the video-streaming site YouTube in southeast Asia's first interview on its World View series, Mr. Aquino also addressed a wide range of issues from his sweeping to dealing with the country's transgressions to what the Philippines had to offer investors.

A 7-year-old boy named Joshua asked the last question that was chosen for the interview. He asked whether the President believed in Santa Claus and what his wish was for Christmas if he did.

"Do I believe in Santa Claus? I learn Gene perhaps is a personification of... (But) best in people, the idea of generosity. The idea of saving (for) someone, at least for Christmas (saying that) pretend, most particularly and most, third are my strengths," President Aquino said.

"When there anything, we really have to chalk, to those of us still left (home) the administration and everything, please let us be the saving ourselves into how we can assist our neighbor, our sister, our brother or whoever, somebody we don't even know," President Aquino said.

President Aquino said people should think of how to contribute "towards the improvement of the whole rather than concentrate on carp or concentrate on the negative and only dedicate ourselves to all (elements) that lead to confusion."

"Perhaps that idea of caring for everybody does not exist really during the Christmas period but most so is a (test) of everyday life that has to be—Looking and suffice that (not) feeling (carry) or once-every-self (person)," President Aquino said.

Among the prominent world leaders already interviewed were US President Barack Obama, British Prime Minister David Cameron, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Asked what plans is the Philippines for would position in a tourist destination, President Aquino declined to name a spot, saying choosing one may generate protest from the others.

He said the whole country deserves a right to see and respect once.

"You can practically go to any region in this country and there will be sights that will make your trip worthwhile," Mr. Aquino said.

He pledged the country's food, food offerings, saying "while a lot of food from other countries are processed, those from the Philippines tend to keep more of the natural flavor intact."

Whether one is adventurous or conservative, President Aquino said "there will be food that will really enhance your living."

He said that when the country deals with the transgressions needs of the country, international travel will expose more of our people to the beauties of our country.

Aquino off to Hawaii for Apec meeting

By Norman Bordadora and Tina G. Santos

AQUINO

PRESIDENT Aquino is scheduled to join 21 heads of state from Nov. 11 to Nov. 13 in Honolulu, Hawaii, for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Summit.

Hosted by the United States, Apec 2011 is expected to focus on jobs and growth, regulatory reform and competitiveness, and energy efficiency and security.

Joining Aquino are Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo and Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

Prior to the Apec Economic Leaders' Meeting on Nov. 12 to Nov. 13, President Aquino will be participating in the Apec CEO Summit.

"This is a very exciting part of Apec because now you have the private sector people led by the Apec Business Advisory Council," Del Rosario said.

Some 300 chief executive officers are expected to attend.

Delegation

Del Rosario said business leaders Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Tony Tan Caktiong and Jesus Magsaysay Jr. will lead the country's CEO delegation.

A highlight of the visit will be a summit hosted by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and Microsoft Group Founder for President Aquino, Del Rosario added.

Apparently, Apec had arranged for CEOs to host delivered lunch of state. This portion gives business leaders the opportunity to meet with Apec political leaders and raise issues of common concern to the host.

Vietnam envoy warns of war in South China Sea

HUE—Sentiment tensions in the South China Sea could explode into "full-scale conflict", unless quarrelling neighbors abide by international law, a Vietnamese diplomat warned on Friday.

Dang Dinh Quy, president of the state-run Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, told a Hanoi conference on maritime disputes that the significance of the sea to regional peace and economic growth was overlooked.

"The South China Sea is still rife with maritime tensions that threaten to escalate into full-scale conflicts if the parties concerned do not exercise self-restraint and respect the basic principles of international law," he warned.

The hot spot comes at a time of heightened unease over a web of competing claims between Beijing and several regional neighbors, including Vietnam, that centers on strategic island chains in the oil-rich waters.

Quy said on outbreak of hostilities was a risk. "If the international community fails to respond to crisis situations" appropriately, her added that the seven seas will "basically prevail."

Beijing says it has sovereignty over expansively all of the South China Sea, a key global trading route. Its claim to the Spratly archipelago competes with those of Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Brunei and Malaysia.

China and Vietnam also have a long-standing dispute over the Paracel island group.

The Philippines and Vietnam have complained of increasing harassment of their fishermen by Chinese vessels in the region.

AFP

CHR: Probe fake claimants

COMMISSION on Human Rights (CHR) chair Etta Rosales has ordered an investigation into reported cases of fake claimants for the compensation money awarded to human rights victims during the dictatorship of ferdinand Marcos.

She also said she would discuss with the chairs of the Senate and House committees on justice the possibility of imposing more stringent identification measures to ensure that checks are only given to real claimants.

The Philippine National Police recently busted a syndicate that reportedly provided fake documents to people who would pose as claimants.

Rosales said the CHR would undertake an independent probe on the matter.

The distribution of compensation for 7,000 human rights victims was completed in May, but Rosales sought reinstatement until October 15 because about 500 checks remained unclaimed. Each victim was granted $1,000. The work was part of the $10 million awarded by a Texas court to victims of human rights abuses.

Rosales said she would discuss with Robert Swift and Bob Domingo, the counsels for the claimants, what to do with the unclaimed checks.

"They were the ones who arranged this. We were only the distribution center," Rosales said.

At present, claimants only have to present a government-issued ID to receive their checks. Rosales said this was a problem as IDs are easy to fake.

Kristine L. Alave

Miriam declares war on stalkers

By Christian V. Esguerra

STALKING, a celebrity's nightmare, might soon become a crime in the Philippines.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago has filed a bill penalizing stalking, a common problem confronting famous people or celebrities.

In Senate Bill No. 1770, or the "Anti-Stalker Act," the senator defines stalking her as act of "harassing, following, frightening and subversive proceedings with the private lives of others."

Stalking, she said, is "a form of disguised intimidation, which may be a subtle attempt at harassment."

Celebrities have and should have had to deal with frantic followers, who border on being stalkers. The reality apparently goes with fame, but (R.A. 7776, under) prevailing penalties to protect victims, who may not necessarily be popular.

"Existing civil and criminal remedies are insufficient to prevent the commission of the act," Santiago argued in her bill's explanatory note.

SB 1770 defines stalking as a form of harassment that is "directed at a particular person, seriously alarms, annoys or harasses the person," and "serves no legitimate purpose" and causes "a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress."

Credible threat

Stalking also involves a "course of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose." It includes a "credible threat" intended to "cause the person who is the target to reasonably fear for his or her safety."

"The threat must be against the life of, or a threat to cause bodily injury to, a person," according to the bill.

In particular, stalking is characterized as "repeated and unsolicited phone calls without the purpose of legitimate communication," and "repeated communication (done) anonymously or at extremely inconvenient hours or in offensively coarse language."

Santiago's bill also classifies as stalking "repeated visits to (the stalked) home or workplace" and "repeatedly maintaining visual or physical proximity to the victim in or about a public place."

SB 1770 penalizes stalking with a jail term of up to six years or a fine worth between P1,000 and P5,000.

"If the offender subsequently commits the same crime or is convicted for or found guilty of another crime involving stalking, the next higher penalty shall be imposed," according to the measure.

Charice dad's killer charged

By Marinar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—Murder charges were filed yesterday against suspect Angel Capili, the self-confessed killer of Ricky Pempengco, the father of teen sensation pop star Charice.

Raoul Pempengco Hamao, the eldest child of the victim, filed a complaint affidavit against Capili at the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor here on Friday morning. He was accompanied by Ricky's wife Raquel and daughter Charice.

It was not clear why Hamao was the one who signed the affidavit instead of Raquel, but according to Charice's manager, Jovee Abadiano, "it was because (Mujica) was the first one (to the family) who was there (right after the murder)."

"Raquel's family anyway was present during the signed to provide their support," added Abadiano.

Capili, a construction worker, surrendered to authorities on Thursday and admitted to killing Ricky Pempengco in Barangay Linao here on Monday but insisted he did it in self-defense.

Ricky has been living separately from his wife Raquel since they separated when Charice, now 19, was only three years old.

After the inquest, Charice and her mother proceeded to the Jesus Mercy Healing Chapel in Muntinlupa City, where her father's remains lie.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY
The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Peace Corps commemorate 50 years of partnership through a one-day exhibit at the Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. Head Office in Pasay City on Friday. (See story on Page A11.) STORY AND PHOTO

Solon, 8 others face cartel raps

By Jaymee Anlog

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday recommended the filing of charges against LPGMA party-list Rep. Mikee Ty and eight others for allegedly having LPG dealers to rollback prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in violation of free trade laws.

The 10-page resolution penned by prosecutor Cesar Apolo Chavez III and approved by Prosecutor General Claro Arellano, found "probable cause" to cite the lawmaker and his associates for using "price signalling" to dictate LPG prices in their concessions, a violation of of anticartel provisions of the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act.

Aside from Ty, others ordered charged were Dennis Chua, Alvin Sy, Anne Bocell, Ronnie Invictiano, Mae Dove Tang, Virginia Cid, Bonifacio Ebeta and Antonio del Rosario—all stockholders, directors and officers of LPG-selling or distributing firms and members of the LPG Marketers Association that Ty represents in Congress.

The complainant, Federation of Philippine Industries chair Jesus Arranza, said the LPGMA acted in connivance to roll back prices of their LPG tanks whenever Ty made an announcement through the media that there would be a rollback.

The announcement made by Ty, according to the complaint, resulted in "coordination and/or concerted action" tantamount to "combination" as defined by Section 11 (a) of Republic Act 8479 and to "monopolies and combinations in restraint of trade" as defined by Article 186 of the Revised Penal Code.

The resolution noted that other members of the LPGMA did not object and apparently unanimously consented to the rollback declarations made by Ty. "In competitive law, this is part of a strategy that includes a practice known as 'price signalling.'" the resolution added.

The resolution said Ilim was effectively "a statement on trade and free competition" which the law seeks to stem.

9 police execs convicted in ₱38-M scam

By Kristine L. Rivera

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday found former police Chief Supt. Evelyn Hernandez and eight others guilty of graft in connection with the ghost deliveries of police equipment and uniforms worth ₱38 million in the early '90s.

Aside from Hernandez, the former logistics chief of the Philippine National Police, those who were found to have violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act were: Sr. Supt. Alejandro Espiritu Jr., Supt. Obdulio Taperas, Supt. Alejandro Caciadio, Chief Insp. Ana de Vera, Chief Insp. Adolfo Pamplona Sr., Sr. Insp. Lloyd Corona, Fe Dale Lee Malicsi, and PO2 Rosario Jhon Libot.

In a 44-page decision promulgated yesterday, the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division sentenced the respondents to six to 10 years of imprisonment and perpetual disqualification from public office. They were also told to pay the government ₱38 million, which represented the losses it suffered.

Three who were acquitted were Sr. Insp. Edwardo Ortuoste, Jr., Insp. Alfred Cuffie, and Barangay Captain Ruben Cuffie for lack of evidence that they participated in the anomalous use of government money intended to buy combat clothing and individual equipment for policemen in the 1990s.

The Sandiganbayan dropped the charges against former Director Gen. Cesar Nazarrea, Teresa Flores, Belinda Abenhaim, and SPO4 Ernesto Pilando Jr. The first, however, had already died, while cases against the latter three were dismissed in 2006, Pilando in 2005, Flores in 2004, and Abenhaim in 1998.

The charges against the PNP top brass stemmed from their irregular purchase of jackets, boots and uniforms in 1992.

According to court documents, the officials approved the disbursement of Check Funds and signed invoices, when "in truth and in fact ... no such transaction [complete clothing and individual equipment] transpired nor were made."

Despite the presence of purchase orders and other documents, subsequent inquiries with the "PNP regional commands that were supposed to receive the items showed that these were as deliveries.

The court also noted that the officials "split" the purchase orders (PO) worth ₱500,000 each to several suppliers, who in enabled them to avoid inspections and approval of higher authority.

Audi
Vorsprung durch Technik

Luxury has progressed
through lightweight technology.

The all-new Audi A6.

The game has changed.

First, we conquered Le Mans. Next, we triumphed in the Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters Championship. If there's one thing we've learned, it's that power and efficiency are not determined by engine advancements alone. That's why the Audi A6 3.0 houses more than just our superb 3.0 TFSI® and 3.0 TDI® engines. It features an aluminium hybrid chassis that's been infused with lightweight technology to deliver better acceleration, excellent driving dynamics and class-leading efficiency. All while sacrificing none of the luxuries that you've come to expect in an Audi. With the all-new Audi A6, the rules of luxury have not only been broken. They've been changed altogether.

• 12.2km/l (TFSI®) and 15.7km/l (TDI®) fuel consumption • Audi drive select • Start-stop system • Comfort key • Head-Up Display

EURO NCAP
5 Stars in Crash Safety Rating

10 Years Warranty

PGACars
Audi Global City 11th Avenue cor. 28th Street, PGA Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Tel. 552 7511
Audi Greenhills 301-305, Mandaluyong City. Tel. 724 0963
Audi Makati Commerce cor. Filmwell Ave., Westgate Center, Filinvest Corporate City. Tel. 771 1111

www.audi.ph

NUS MBA
GET EMPLOY-ABILITY

Alexander Freiberg
The NUS MBA, Class of 2011
Associate, Mirus Partners, Switzerland

"Studying alongside classmates from diverse work and cultural backgrounds gave me invaluable perspectives on Asia, an asset highly valued by prospective employers."

Alexander wasn't satisfied with just a bachelor's degree from the US. He wanted to expand his horizons and immerse himself in the world's most dynamic region. He decided to pursue an MBA at one of Asia's leading business schools, ranked 23rd globally*. Enriched by a 90% international student mix with faculty from all over the world, the NUS MBA, ranked No. 1 in Asia* and 6th globally for education experience**, offers a global curriculum with an Asian focus. Strategically positioned in Singapore, Asia's vital business hub, the program provides a link to the global marketplace, and a passport to a international career.

Register at nus.nus.edu/events/a

NUS MBA
INFORMATION SESSION
Date : 16 Nov 2011 (Wednesday)
Time : 1900 to 2100
Venue : Makati Shangri-La Manila
Ballroom III
Ayala Avenue corner
Makati Avenue
Makati City 1200, Philippines

* Financial Times Global MBA Ranking 2011
** Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Graduate Ranking 2010

ASIA'S GLOBAL BUSINESS SCHOOL

NUS | NUS

Ban on deployment to 41 countries hit

By Jessica Arong

A RECRUITMENT expert yesterday backed Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario's call on the labor department to enforce the ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to 41 countries with an adequate love that pay, but migrant laborers.

Emmanuel Geslani, a consultant of several Manila-based recruitment agencies, said the ban was "ill-timed and ill-advised taking into consideration the current world recession where millions are unemployed anywhere in the world."

"By banning the deployment of our workers to these countries, we are preventing them from gaining gainful employment and a better chance to improve their lives," he added.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, an agency attached to the labor department, announced the ban early this week.

The 41 countries were found not to be compliant with the requirements set by Republic Act No. 10022 that OFW host countries should have adequate protection measures for foreign migrant workers.

The 41 included five that were already covered by a total or partial ban issued in previous years. These include Libya, Lebanon, Iraq, Nigeria and Afghanistan.

Geslani chided POEA administrator Carlos Cao Jr. for downplaying the efforts of the ban by saying that these countries are small markets and the deployment to these countries is limited.

"It seems that Mr. Cao is misinformed on his data since Libya, where over 15,000 Filipinos were working before the onset of the Libya revolution is no small market. The POEA has been deploying OFWs there for the past 40 years," he said.

More than 30,000 Filipinos working in hospitals, oil fields and refineries in Libya were repatriated in early 2011 and many of them wanted to return to their former jobs after the National Transitional Council took over from the regime of ousted strongman Moammar Gadhafi.

"They were promised by their employers that their positions are still open and that in a few months these oil fields and refineries will be resuming operations so had the economic policies of the NTC," he said.

He added that the inclusion of Libya in the list of unemployment countries might result in the OFWs working in the South African country illegally. "Ban or no ban our OFWs from Libya are determined to return as they have waited eight months to work again in Libya," he added.

US to PH: Stop political killings

THE PHILIPPINES must do more to stop human rights abuses, especially extrajudicial killings if it wants to receive more US aid, the US ambassador to the country said yesterday.

Speaking at a round table of human rights advocates, Ambassador Harry Thomas said the US Congress still withholds portions of US aid to this country until it meets certain conditions in solving the extrajudicial killings.

He did not say how much aid was being withheld as the poorly equipped Philippine military.

Thomas praised President Aquino for his commitment to human rights but stressed that abuses were still going on despite the president's efforts.

"The US government will continue to press the progress on addressing past cases and the ongoing problem of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines," an embassy statement quoted Thomas as saying.

Thomas cited a 2010 US state department report that such killings are still taking place under Aquino and that previous cases of abuse and impunity were not being vigorously investigated.

The United States is the main defense ally of the Philippines which is fighting both communist and Muslim insurgencies.

Aquino, who took office in June 2010, had vowed to curb extrajudicial killings and other abuses. AFP

HOPE FOR MIDDLE AND ADVANCE STAGE CANCER PATIENT

Modern Radio-particle seed implantation can cut off the proliferation tumor cells.

Recurrent or metastasis of cancer has always been extremely intractable, however with the advent of radio-particle seed implantation treatment, hope is given to patient with advance stage of cancer.

Specifically speaking, the particle seed is a radioactive iodine 125, that is less than half a centimeter long rod in a titanium shell that is about 0.7mm thick.

The doctor will then follow a treatment plan. An instrument is used to inject the particle seed that will emit radiation that intare will kill the tumor cells and prevent proliferation.

Mr. Lee, a Chinese from Vietnam recently found out that he has thymoma, a huge black shadow was seen in chest x-ray. Further examination showed that it is malignant, and is wrap around the aorta and veins arteries. Surgical resectioning is quite difficult to resolve his case.

According to the experts of Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital, thin chest tumor are usually slow growing and have little impact on the human body, however, the growth of the tumor will cause compression of the lungs thereby affecting the patient's breathing and eventually the heart.

Experts had advised Mr. Lee that the size of his tumor is 18cm x 16cm x 13cm, about the size of a small watermelon. A timely control of the malignant tumor must be done to prevent the further development of the tumor inside the body of the patient.

January 2011, experts conducted particle seed implantation on Mr. Lee. They implanted 118 pieces of iodine 125 around the tumor, these will emit rays that will kill the cancer cells. Gradually the rays will be lessen by time until the volume of the tumor is controlled.

According to experts, when there is recurrence of the tumor, surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy will no longer be applicable in this case. Hence, particle seeds are directly planted on the tumor by "puncture method". These will continuously release radiation, achieving the final point blasting or killing of the tumor. At present, this treatment has been applied to hundreds and nearly a thousand patients who have relapsed or metastasis of their tumors. Complete regression of the tumor lesion was achieved, and had post no hazards to the normal tissues.

广州现代肿瘤医院
Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital

Manila Office Medical Affairs Expert Advi
Unit 7198, Strandview Tower, Mayhaligue St. cor. Masangkay St., Sta. Cruz, Manila • Email: Rockmedicalcare@gmail.com • Visit: http://e-adsnetwork.com

Tel. Nos.: (02) 3531554 • 0915 4642818 • 0922 8083333

DFA: No passport processing Nov. 7

By Tina G. Santos

THERE will be no processing of applications for passports on Monday, Nov. 7, the Department of Foreign Affairs Office of Consular Affairs (DFA-OCA) said yesterday.

In an advisory, the DFA-OCA said its offices would be closed on Monday in celebration of Eid'l Adha, or the Islamic Feast of Sacrifice.

Major Muslim holidays

President Aquino earlier issued Proclamation No. 276, declaring Eid 'l Fitr and Eid 'l Adha, two of the two major feasts of Islam, as a regular holiday nationwide.

All applicants scheduled for an appointment for passport processing on the said date will be accommodated any time from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday to Friday from Nov. 8 (Tuesday) to Nov. 18 (Friday).

Passport applicants are requested to bring their appointment Form 1 bearing Nov. 7 as their date of appointment, the DFA said.

For applicants who are scheduled to claim their passports on Monday, they may get their passports anytime from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning on Nov. 8, it added.

IN THE KNOW: Muslim Holidays

Eid'l Adha and Eid'l Fitr are the two major Islamic holidays observed by Muslims annually. Celebrated according to the lunar-based Islamic calendar, these correspond to the two main observances of the religion, the Hajj and the Ramadan.

Known as the Feast of the Sacrifice, the Eid'l Adha signifies the culmination of the Hajj, or the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia by Muslims worldwide during the 12th month of the Islamic calendar.

The Hajj is a journey that every adult Muslim must undertake at least once in their lifetime if they are physically and financially able to do so. It is one of the five pillars of Islam, the obligations that every Muslim must satisfy in order to live a good and responsible life.

It is mark the event, pilgrims perform prayers and rituals which culminate with the slaughtering of a sacrificial lamb or goat.

Meanwhile, the Eid'l Fitr, a three-day holiday of thanksgiving and rejoicing, is the festival that marks the breaking of the fast at the end of the month of Ramadan.

Muslims all around the world observe Ramadan during the ninth month of the lunar calendar, spending the daylight hours in complete fasting to purify the soul, refrain oneself from sin and practice self-sacrifice.

The Eid'l Adha and Eid'l Fitr were included in the list of the country's regular holidays through the Republic Act Numbers 9849 and 9177, which were signed by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2009 and 2002, respectively.

The exact dates of both celebrations are determined by Saudi Arabia's highest religious body.

The holidays are observed by an estimated 1.6 billion Muslims worldwide.

There is an estimated 5.1 million Muslims in the country as of July 2011, according to the Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook. In 2008, the government estimated the Muslim population in the Philippines at 10 million. The last census by the National Statistics Office put the number at 5.0 million as of 2000. (Inquirer Research)

Sources: FO Archives; [illegible] com; Jeepbit.net

BI agents nab German fugitive

OPERATIVES of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) have arrested a German fugitive wanted for drug trafficking in his country.

Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr. said Stephanus Maria Schoellhorn, 48, has been detained at the Bureau immigration jail in Taguig City following his arrest in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro.

David identified a reliable source that led to Schoellhorn's arrest at the request of the German embassy in Manila.

The embassy cancelled Schoellhorn's passport after it was informed by the German federal police of the fugitive's presence in the Philippines.

According to David, Schoellhorn is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by a municipal court in the southwestern German city of Baden-Baden, where he was charged with seven counts of drug trafficking.

He added that the BI board of commissioners was expected to issue the order for Schoellhorn's deportation before the weekend.

Lawyer Maria Antonette Bacunas-Bumpoluang, BI intelligence chief, said a team of German federal policemen will fetch and escort the fugitive back to his homeland.

Mangyoluang said the German stationed in a municipal in a Filipino woman, and hid in the country for several months after fleeing Germany to evade prosecution for his crimes.

Investigators revealed that Schoellhorn arrived in Manila on Feb. 15 this year and was admitted on a one-year holiday/ex visa.

"Despite his holiday/ex visa, he lost his privilege to remain in the Philippines since he no longer holds a valid passport," Mangyoluang said. Jerome Aning

Water Systems by GE

Do you still pay P35 for 5 gallons of water?

SC ruling upholding OICs for the ARMM opposed

By Jeannie Aning

THE SUPREME Court has been asked to reverse its decision on Dec. 13 which paved the way for the appointment by President Aquino of officer-in-charge in the autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao because the ruling may set "a very dangerous precedent" that can lead to the accumulation of more power by the Chief Executive.

Election lawyers Romulo Macalintal, and in filing a motion for reconsideration of the high court's decision that legalized Congress' postponement of the Aug. 8 ARMM elections, argued, "It will set a very dangerous precedent as it will give rise to a very powerful President who could appoint OICs at will. [He] is now empowered to the extent that scheduled elections in barangay are canceled."

He added, "For sure, these 672,416 OICs who owe allegiance to the appointing power will be a very strong and solid force to reckon with in any automated or local elections since they could spell the big difference between winning and losing in the polls."

Macalintal, through his lawyer Rolando Cadiz Vistan II, elaborated: "With 42,028 barangays and a total of 16 elected officials per barangay, including eight Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials, this will yield a total of 672,416 barangay OICs, and this is not factored in considering the postponement of scheduled barangay elections in the past."

Macalintal also took exception to the ruling of the majority that the appointment of the OICs was "a mere common sentiment" not requiring submittal to a plebiscite.

He said, "The appointments of these OICs has drastically changed the basic structure of the ARMM because the election and representative character of ARMM officials as mandated by the Constitution will be replaced by OICs for almost two years."

"Even the Court ruled that fundamental change in the basic structure of the ARMM constitutive an amendment of its Organic Act which has to be approved in a plebiscite before it could be implemented," Macalintal argued.

The Bonifacio Ecumenical Philippine-Labor ng Bayan, Alternative Good Tillah and Datu Cocon Candog, who also asked the tribunal to reconsider its decision, said the operation of the ARMM elections with the 2011 polls ordered the ARMM autonomy that was guaranteed by the 1987 Constitution.

"The Court failed to appreciate the clear basis for question. Republic Act No. 10153, ordered the Commission [ignored the Local Government Code, and brushed off the Organic Act creating the ARMM in our deliberation.

Hataman's appointment as ARMM OIC hit

By Jeannie Aning

A MUSLIM civil society group yesterday assailed President Aquino's choice of former Basilan Governor Hadji-Mohammad Ajibol Muhtamad Sakkam Tan Hataman to the top officer-in-charge (OIC) governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The Mandilaka Bangsamoro People alliance said doesn't Muslims were "upset" by Hataman's espousal of social democratic ideology and associated with "left-leaning" personalities and personalities such as presidential political adviser Roland Queen and Commission on Human Rights chair Etta Rosales.

"His association with the reject-banned Section 1 of the Communist Party of the Philippines does not augur well for the Muslim community which does not subscribe to it following a communist ideology," Mandilaka secretary-general Hadji Pangalayan told the Reporter.

Pangalayan said communism and social democratic ideologies were "a threat to foreign values and the way of life of Muslims in the Philippines."

The Muslim leader said Mr. Aquino should stick to his four criteria in choosing a prospective OIC, namely: education preparation, work experience, accomplishment and integrity.

He said the Malacañang selection process has been tainted by accusation of favor by many Muslims after Hataman's name was floated by unnamed Palace officials as the President's top choice.

Hataman was close to the President when both were members of the opposition till the time of Estrada's ouster during the Arroyo administration.

Cash&Carry MALLWIDE SALE

UP TO 50% OFF ON GREAT SELECTIONS OCT. 28 - NOV. 8

MALL ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

DEPT. STORE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR	Oct. 10 - Nov. 29, 2011	1st Level Activity Area
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING	Nov. 12, 2011	2nd Level Activity Area
FURNITURE EXPRESS SALE	Oct. 28 - Nov. 30, 2011	3rd Level
APPLIANCE FAIR	Nov. 21 - January 15, 2012	1st Level Activity Area
TOY FAIR	Nov. 21 - January 15, 2012	1st Level Activity Area
Live Band	Every Saturday	2nd Level Activity Area
Holy Mass	Every Sunday 10:30 AM, 4:30 PM	3rd Level Mass Area

Watch out for our December Festivities and have fun with our Christmas Carnival Theme!

Mikey wants arraignment on tax-evasion case deferred

By Julie M. Aurelio

PASTILLY Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo said his wife, Angelo, have asked a Quezon City court to defer their arraignment on charges of tax evasion pending the Department of Justice's ruling on an appeal.

The Ang Galing Pinoy Party-list representative also sought court permission to travel to the United States from Nov. 14 to Dec. 7 on "non-official business."

The young Arroyo was charged with failing to file income tax returns from 2007 to 2009, while his wife, Angelo, was charged with failing to file tax returns from 2003 to 2009. They have posted separate bail of P60,000 and P160,000, respectively.

In an omnibus motion before Regional Trial Court Branch 109 Judge Elmo Clemente Jacob, the Arroyos sought the postponement of their arraignment set on Nov. 9, saying that the DOJ has yet to issue a resolution on their motion for reconsideration.

The new motion, filed by lawyer Ray Bonifacio, chief Rules of Court which allow the suspension of an arraignment when a resolution is pending.

The couple had also asked the DOJ to review its initial finding finding probable cause for the tax-evasion rap. The DOJ has yet to rule on this.

In seeking court permission to travel abroad, Arroyo maintained that he was not a flight risk and that there was no hold-departure order against him.

The younger Arroyo said he is scheduled to meet with some members of the Filipino community in Southern California.

Haribon Foundation launches races for rainforest restoration

HARIBON Foundation has again launched its Million Harbor Challenge (HHC) in a continuing effort to restore our rainforests.

Now in its fifth year, the MHC has four race categories: 500m, 3K, 7K and 10K. It will be held on Nov. 27 at the Lawasan Athletic, CCP Complex, Pasay City, starting at 5 a.m.

The race is aimed at raising awareness and funds for Rainforestation and Organic Farming Advocates (ROAD to 2020), an environmental conservation movement to restore one million hectares of our rainforests using native tree species by the year 2020.

Over the years, the MHC has helped generate awareness on biodiversity and forest protection through lectures, discussions and presentations, according to Haribon Foundation advocacy head Gerlinda de los Rey.

"We have also generated environment-friendly and sustainable livelihood options for local communities," he is by said. "We have networked with various sectors to establish and maintain indigenous tree nurseries and plant more than 500,000 native trees to address habitat loss and climate change."

The MHC is open to everyone, including those who want to fancy their pets. The registration fee is P500 for adults and P350 for children 12 years old and below. The deadline for the submission of registration forms and payment of registration fees is Nov. 21.

This year, participants may choose from Adopt-a-Jot which supports five seedlings for P500; Adopt-a-Block, 15 seedlings for P1,500; and Adopt-a-Plot, 30 seedlings for P3,000.

Consignees will fill participants or have seeds boxes given to them on race day. Each registered runner is entitled to one seedling.

"We need more than 5,000 registered participants this year," De la Paz said. "The more participants, the more pledges, the more money we will be able to raise. With the money, the more trees we can plant and expand our natural forests. Remember we are natural forests to continue to provide ecological services to our homes and those of the next generation."

Registration is open at Mizuno stores in the Mall of Asia, Megamall, Trinoma, Festival Mall and SM2 Cubao Makati.

For more details or registration, log on to www.runforrainforests.com; call 421-1213, 421-1209 or 91-26000; text 0922-815-0942/0920-815-2845, or log on to www.haribon.org.ph.

Pinoys urged to reduce dependence on rice

By Ednalyn L. Abon

MANILA — Filipinos should help the government economize its good of becoming self-sufficient in rice by eating only the right amount of the staple, leaving no leftovers, and diversifying their carbohydrate sources, according to the country's rice officials.

By reducing dependence on rice, Filipinos will ease pressure on the staple that the country continues to import, scientists at the Philippine Rice Research Institute (Philrice) said as they kicked off celebrations yesterday of National Rice Awareness Month.

The Philippines, at one time the world's largest rice importer, aims to be self-sufficient in the grain by 2013. The Department of Agriculture (DA) has earmarked a budget of P7.2 billion to carry out the plan.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala said the government is eying the purchase of not more than 500,000 MT for 2012, less than the 860,000 MT and the 2.4 million MT imported in 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Officials said Filipinos depend on rice because it is a cheap source of carbohydrates that provides them with energy for their daily activities.

An average Filipino currently consumes 120 kilograms of rice per year. Those in lower-income households eat more rice than the middle- and the upper income groups, whose diets are more varied.

According to Philrice executive director Antonio Flores Jr., poor families spend as much as 40 percent of their income on rice. He said these families could save money if they eat other carbohydrate sources like camote (sweet potatoes) and kamoteng cahoy (cassava).

He also noted that many Filipinos still do not know how to cook rice properly, resulting to wastage. They also have the habit of not finishing all the rice they put on their plates.

"Some of them seem to be ashamed of cleaning up their plates. This culture has to change," Flores said in a press briefing yesterday.

According to a study by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, a Filipino wastes an average three tablespoons of rice each day, which costs at least P25 million every day.

While corn, cassava, sweet potato, oats and banana can be used as alternatives to rice, said Philrice senior scientist Perfecto Bueno.

She noted that countries like Japan and China are rice-sufficient despite having small rice harvests per capita because of their strategic diversified diets.

A diversified carbohydrate diet is also healthier, said Philrice chemist Joy Bartolome Delfelan. Camote has more fiber and complex carbohydrates than rice, she noted.

"Half of the typical Filipino plate contains rice despite recommendations to eat more of fruits and vegetables. New dietary guidelines recommend that fruits and vegetables should occupy half of our plates and about 1/4 by grains," Delfelan said.

Agriculture officials said the use of other carbohydrate sources like oolong and corn is feasible now. Corn grits is a common staple in northern Luzon, and oolong is in southern Mindanao.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

NOVEMBER 5 | Saint Day
Psalter Week 1
31st Week in Ordinary Time
Pw 1:6b-2: 1-4, 9-11, 19-11

God's praise your name in every land.

1st Reading — Rom 14:1-9, 10, 20-23

Brothers and sisters: Welcome to Priscilla and Aquila, my helpers in Christ Jesus. To save my life, they risked theirs. I am not grateful to them, so are all the churches of the pagan nations. Greetings also to the church in their house. Greetings to my dear Epenetus, the first in the province of Asia to believe in Christ. Greet Mary, who worked so much for you.

Greetings to Andronicus and Junias, my relatives and companions in prison; they are well-known apostles and served Christ before I did.

Give greetings to Amplias, whom I love so much in the Lord. Greetings to Urbanus, our fellow worker, and to my dear brother Stachys. Greetings to Apelles, who suffered for Christ, and the family of Aristobulus.

Gospel — Lk 16:9-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "And so I tell you: use filthy money to make friends for yourselves, so that when it fails, these people may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever can be trusted with little things can also be trusted in great ones; whoever is dishonest in slight matters will also be dishonest in important ones. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling filthy money, who will entrust you with true wealth? And if you have not been trustworthy with things that are not really yours, who will give you the wealth which is your own?

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he dislikes the one and loves the other, or he respects one highly and the other with contempt. You cannot give yourself both to God and to money."

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and sneered at Jesus. He said to them, "You do your best to be considered righteous by people. But God knows the heart, and what you highly esteem is loathed by God."

Reflection:

Sometimes we indeed wonder sure that everything in the universe is in order. Friends are our best and dearest ones and prepared and shared to always help and always share. One day, the enemy comes as we making a glass of juice or fast food and that's when we are eager to do. Greater than we must love, he asked his servant "Brethren if you sowed fill the container with apple, how can you manage with a single pail of? If you wanted to see your brothers in the community, how can you serve hundreds of people in the world?" Then does not need a pail and still to fill the container with apple are others's comfort in the words of the old rotten masters. Whoever can be trusted in little things can also be trusted in big ones.

Penguin quest leads to Manila

By Jeannette I. Andrade

IT IS LIKE going to Antarctica—except that the penguins are eating and lounging.

The Manila Ocean Park can now boast of housing the first, rarest and only penguin habitat in the Philippines—and to be there as in be near the coldest, driest place on the planet.

At yesterday's launch of the "Trails to Antarctica: The Penguin Quest," visitors were treated to four educational walk-through zones, the main attraction of which being the first and only live penguin exhibit in the Philippines.

The three were into South American penguins captive-bred in Germany.

The "tropical" Humboldt penguins were presented in a habitat closest to their own, complete with nesting burrows, a rocky shore, and an indoor pool to allow them to frolic unchecked by the waves, while giving the public a view of their natural antics.

Among 18 known species of penguins worldwide, Humboldt penguins actually live in warm and dry climate off the Pacific coastlines of Chile and Peru.

The penguins were flown in three months ago from Germany where they were captive-bred.

"We got the penguins from a breeding facility in Hamburg," Happy Lim, Manila Ocean Park program development specialist, told the reporters. "We usually get our marine life specimens from breeding facilities. In keeping with our policy of ever, commercial protection and conservation, we do not take animals from the wild."

Antarctica is here'

Lim said they chose to exhibit the Humboldt penguins because they can withstand warmer temperatures better than their counterparts in the Antarctic and are more "tropical."

At the Ocean Park, a cool temperature of 21 to 22 degrees Celsius is maintained in the penguins' habitat.

At the launch of the marine theme park's newest attractions, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim expressed excitement at having a close look of the penguins, which he noted are small and seen only in books and magazines by school children.

"We are going to Antarctica without boarding a plane. Without paying so much, Antarctica has been brought here by the management of Manila Ocean Park," Lim said.

'We're all children'

US ambassador to Manila Harry K. Thomas Jr. said the exhibit made his dream come true. He wanted to encourage his compatriots to visit the country and view the exhibit.

"I am very, very pleased to be here because I have always wanted to go to Antarctica," Thomas said in a speech. "I have always wanted to meet a penguin and today, because of the Manila Ocean Park, my dreams [have] come true. So thank you."

Thomas said the park was on the right track in educating the young about environmental protection and conservation.

"We are all children today," the ambassador stressed, adding that through the exhibit, everyone could learn about Antarctica, the penguins, the environment and what people need to do to take care of resources.

"I tell you, very much encourage all Americans tourists to come here and take their families," he said.

Binby was there, too

Interesting with the waddling birds, President Aquino's nephew, four-year-old James Yap Jr., or "Binby," had fun feeding and petting the penguins.

"Trying to call the birds' attention, the boy kept on shouting, "Hey penguins!"

Asked how he liked the penguins, Binby said with a smile, "The penguins were good to me."

The penguins ignored all the attention given them by their guarding, stalking visitors. They continued to frolic and swim in the water, coarse in a while taking galumphing off people feeding them.

Sometimes, they would stare at a person standing near them, showing no sign of shame, before waddling away towards the water.

PH's longest ice slide

Another attraction on the Antarctic trail is a 42-meter snow slide, the "Slide O' Pen," touted as another first in the Philippines. It is said to be the country's longest ice slide.

The Snow Village replicates a typical Antarctic community where visitors can frolic in the snow in a room kept at subzero temperatures.

Artist Cortes, park vice president for sales, said that the "Discovering Antarctica" portion of the exhibit hopes to "awaken the sense of adventure and the desire for discovery and exploration of everyone."

Featured in the exhibit are the early beginnings of Antarctica, its diverse wildlife, scientists, and the continent's significance to science research. The park also hopes to showcase Antarctica as a region that would help unlock the future of humanity and of the entire planet.

TRAILS TO ANTARCTICA. Visitors watch nine Humboldt penguins through a glass wall at the Manila Ocean Park. Guests can feed the penguins through three adult-sized holes inside the giant tank. Humboldt penguins come from the Pacific coastlines of Chile and Peru, with an average size of about 23 to 30 inches tall and an average weight of about 9 to 12 pounds.

DIABETES CENTER PHILIPPINES
(Philippine Center for Diabetes Education Foundation, Inc.)

17th National Assembly of Diabetes Educators (NADE)

"Life Goes On... Coping with Diabetes Complications"

on November 12, 2011, Saturday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
at the Century Ballroom, Century Park Hotel, Manila

PROGRAM

07:30 - 08:00 Registration
08:00 - 08:30 Master of Ceremonies
National Anthem
Invocation
Opening Remarks
Dr. Jose Carlos Miranda

Symposium 1: Life Goes On Despite Macrovascular Complications
Chairperson
Dr. Maria Ynette Amante
Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua

08:30 - 08:50 Renoprotection After Stroke
08:50 - 09:10 Cardiac Rehabilitation
09:10 - 09:30 Basics of Wound Care
09:30 - 10:00 Saving the Diabetic Foot - Before and After Amputation
10:00 - 10:30 Open Forum
10:30 - 11:00 Opening of Exhibits, Snacks (courtesy of Sanofi - Aventis)
11:00 - 11:15 Induction of new Associate Diabetes Educators
Dr. Jimmy Aragon

11:15 - 12:00 Plenary Lecture: "The Liver that is Fatty"
Chairperson
Speaker
Dr. Mateo Anastacio Gomez
Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua

12:00 - 01:30 Lunch Symposium: "The Smart Way to Monitor Glucose is HbA1c Enough?" (Roche Diagnostics)
Chairperson
Speaker
Dr. Carolyn Montano
Dr. Jon Arabelle Fontanilla

01:30 - 02:00 Free Time to visit the Exhibits

Symposium 2: Life Goes On Despite Microvascular Complications
Chairperson
Dr. Cecilia Gonzales

02:00 - 02:20 Low Vision - Restoring the Blind Spot
02:20 - 02:40 Coping With Renal Replacement Therapy
02:40 - 03:10 Kidneytalk - One and Only
03:10 - 03:40 Neuropathic Pain: Pain, No Aves, Don't Come Again Another Day
03:40 - 04:00 Open Forum
Dr. Amel de Jesus
Dr. Anna Margaret Ang
Dr. Patricia Cabral - Prodigalidad
Dr. Josephine Tuazon
Dr. Lenard Shell Magbitang

Closing Remarks
Dr. Jay C. Fontanilla

Registration Fee
600.00 Php

for inquiries, please contact:
Diabetes Center Secretariat
Tel. No.: (02) 892-1064,
888-8999 loc. 2287
Email: diabetes.center@yahoo.com

CORPORATE PARTNERS

ABBOTT DIABETES CARE
ABBOTT NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL
ASTRAZENECA PHILIPPINES, INC.
BECTON DICKINSON PHILIPPINES, INC.
CORBRIDGE GROUP PHILS., INC.
FERNANDO MEDICAL ENTERPRISES, INC.
JOHNSON AND JOHNSON-LIFESCAN, INC.
L. MEYER PHARMA, INC.
LR IMPERIAL, INC.
MEDICAL TRENDS AND TECHNOLOGIES
MERCK SERONO
MERCK SHARP AND DOHME PHILS.
NATRAPHARM PAIMOR
NOVARTIS HEALTHCARE PHILS., INC.
NOVO - NORDISK
ROCHE (PHILIPPINES), INC.
SANOFI-AVENTIS PHILS., INC.
SERVIER PHILIPPINES, INC.
THERAPHARMA, INC.

TOXIC TAXI: COMMUTORIUM Rolando Tanunido, 34, said he drove an LPG-fueled taxi in 2008. He blamed feeling ill-to-the-gut and throat going dry prompting him to abandon his dream of training. Tanunido said he started losing weight. The doctor told him to stop working and stop driving an LPG taxi. Tanunido believes the problem with LPG taxis starts when there's a leak in the hose that connects the LPG tank to the car engine. He said the leak is sometimes difficult to notice. He now drives a cab that runs on diesel fuel.

DOH: Just theories…

From page A1

Drivers work 24/7 to earn their "boundaries," negotiating heavy Manila's congested and polluted streets for longer periods of time and working on their quick breaks, this boss said.

Rigorous tests needed

He acknowledged that chemicals in the LPG can be absorbed into the blood through inhalation.

But to determine what levels are safe and what are toxic can only be established through rigorous tests, including blood and air quality monitoring, which a taxi driver using LPG fuel wasn't be willing to undergo.

Reports of taxi drivers suffering from respiratory and skin ailments due to drinking LPG-fueled cabs have reached DOH since 2007 under then Health Secretary Francisco Duque III.

In July 2007, Duque ordered the department's Environmental and Occupational Health Office (EOHO) to study the possible hazards linked to LPG fueled vehicles following complaints of breathing difficulty and skin allergies among taxi drivers.

He has also urged the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board and the Department of Science and Technology to join in undertaking the research.

Unfinished study

A study with the EOHO reported that it has yet to finish the study, which was launched about a year ago, according to Ana Rivera, supervising head project officer.

"We still need additional drivers to examine," Rivera told the Sunstar. The study has observed roughly 20 drivers, she said.

The study being conducted in collaboration with the UP-PGH National Poison Management and Control Center, is intervention that manages poisoning and studies the health effects of chemical exposure among high-risk communities.

The Inquirer's entertainment reporter Pathric Gumpon has talked to more drivers than the EOHO about the problem in his daily commute. Pathric's stories about the buses smashing his rear video over by rider on LPG-powered unfold to the center of articles.

"We are having difficulty recruiting volunteers to participate," said Dr. Lynn Pangilinan, the center's chief. She said it was still premature to say whether taxi drivers exposure to LPG fumes posed health risks.

Until the study is completed, health experts can only advise cab drivers to make sure that their vehicles' gas pipe connections are properly installed so that the LPG hoses don't go through the air-conditioning system.

"I assume that if the piping system of the LPG is the first line to connect, there won't be any problem," said Herbosa.

Gas evaporates swiftly

Dr Marilyn Alcantara, president of the Philippine College of Occupational Medicine (PCOM), said no study has proven yet that there is considerable health hazard in using LPG fueled vehicles.

"I don't see any because it (LPG) easily evaporates at room temperature and has low carbon emission unlike the negative particles," Alcantara said in a phone interview.

An affiliate of the Philippine Medical Association, PCOM is an organization of occupational medicine practitioners working in the health, wellness and safety of workers in all workplaces while preserving the environment.

Alcantara said the Bukidnon bans from the LPG evaporation, the normal conditions but added that the fumes is not released on the environment such have an effect on the respiratory tract.

Bronchial spasm

Long exposure to LPG fumes may trigger bronchial spasm, a sudden constriction of the muscles in the walls of the bronchioles, causing difficulty in breathing, she said.

"But it's not temporary," Alcantara said. Because the airways get irritated, dryness and thirst are also among the symptoms of bronchospasm, she added.

She highly recommended that the engineering component in the use of LPG as an alternative motor fuel be improved. "For us, it is less hazardous than petroleum," she said.

Other factors

By the nature of their work, taxi drivers, and even commuters, are exposed to air pollution and smoking every day, said Dr. Norberto Dimaano of the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP).

"How can we put the blame on LPG when there are many other factors, like pollution or smoking?" Francisco, a pulmonologist, said in an interview. "It's unfair for us to overcome that because of what we call the confounding variables."

Poor's why complaints by drivers and commuters of dizziness, headache, dryness of throat, thirst and breathing difficulty among others, as caused by exposure to LPG are "merely anecdotal" and have no "scientific basis," he said.

"When you analyze data or your research, you talk of huge number or thousands of subjects," Francisco said. "Unfortunately, if you look at research protocols, we can't provide data especially because LPG is new to the market. But even if it has been in use for a long time, it's difficult to determine it because of smoking and pollution."

As of now, the Lung Center has no data on drivers who had themselves checked or were confined mainly because of exposure to LPG, according to Francisco, the hospital spokesperson.

"What we get are infection, bronchitis, enhanced airways. Those things are the end result of so many risk factors. We just treat the end and that because we have to make them feel better," he said.

Design now research

Neither does the Lung Center have any research on the effects of fuel on the health of public utility vehicular drivers, presumably because of the factors of pollution and smoking, the doctor said.

One sure-fire way to find out the possible correlation between chronic ailments and exposure to LPG is through research (as currently being done, according to Francisco).

This twelve-time he-grouping taxi drivers in the—LPG cases and non-LPG users and making sure all the subjects are roommates and are not exposed to pollution.

Ideally, she should be done in pollution-free countries, like Denmark, Sweden and New Zealand, Francisco said.

"The only way you can do this is do a blame research. You can't base it on past history. Design a new research and follow them up in time," he said. "That's the only way you can find out. Otherwise, we will not have a valid conclusion."

(Tomorrow: The other side—the believers in LPG)

STUDY INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FAIR

GLOBAL EDUCATION = GLOBAL SUCCESS

OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT YOU!

UK, CANADA, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND, FRANCE, CHINA AND MUCH MORE!

RADISSON BLU HOTEL CEBU
NOVEMBER 26, 2011 | 4-8PM

MARCO POLO DAVAO
NOVEMBER 12, 13 & 19 | 4-8PM

MANILA NEW WORLD HOTEL
NOVEMBER 14, 19 & 20 | 4-8PM

FREE ADMISSION

ATTENTION: CLASSIFIED ADVERTISERS

BDO

P1

BDO Rewards Exclusive

Roast chicken. ONLY P1!

Just use 1,000 BDO Rewards points for your groceries at SM.

• Swipe your BDO Rewards Card at the kiosk of participating outlets to get the P1 roast chicken voucher.
• Present voucher and receipt (minimum of 1,000 points redeemed) at SM Supermarket.
Only one chicken may be claimed per receipt.

Banking has never been this rewarding.

We find ways

SUPERMARKET HYPERMARKET

Ramona leaves for Hong Kong

From page A1

he identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

"We are shocked to see/hear/ read about this report," Mike Pagaduan, a spokesperson for the office of Sen. Nikki Revilla Jr., half-brother of the three Ramgens, told the Sunstar.

Senator's statement

For only a statement issued by the senator's family said: "She has never been under the custody of Senator Revilla Jr. even after he took her from the Paranaque police station last Oct. 29. Ramona was at the wake of Ramgen for 3 days and did not go there any longer and did not even attend the funeral of her brother. There had been no contact with her since then. This is a police matter and to their hands more than ever."

Ramona had been tagged by Ramgen's girlfriend as one of those allegedly involved in the murders.

PNP backs Paranaque cops

The Philippine National Police (PNP) is standing by the handling of the Paranaque police in the case involving the murders of Ramgen (Ram-Revilla in show biz).

Responding to doubts raised by the Revilla-Revilla family on the police investigation that linked the slain actor's two siblings, Ramona and Ramon Jr. "If the video was committed at around 10:30 p.m. on Friday (Oct. 28), how come she was seen at a Leo Palace mall at around 1:30 a.m. on Saturday?" said Chief Insp. Enrique Ilo, the head of Task Force Ramgen. "Why did she not go directly to the nearest precinct? There's one inside SM Manila."

He said at least 10 witnesses—Parañaque Revilla's personal assistant, Rosalie Jaquinto, and two security guards working as waiters in the subdivision—saw Ramona in the family residence.

According to Ilo, Jaquinto told police that he saw Mona and RJ leave the house and a second that the two were heading to Baguio City, where the family was to visit a brother who was just admitted to the Philippine Military Academy.

'In shock'

In a phone interview aired on TV5 Illana Bautista said she was "in shock" when she told authorities on Oct. 29 that she was abducted and stopped off, unharmed, at a mall in Alabang-Zapote Road.

She said she had actually driven away from the house as soon as she could, fearing for her life in the thought her brother's assailants was still in the area.

But by video footage in Illana's interview, she said: "What happened to her car? Why was she walking?"

Senior Supt. Billy Beltran, the Parañaque chief of police, said he was not able to catch the on-air interview.

He bagged off from saying how Mona's testimony could impact the investigation of the city prosecutor's office against her, RJ and five others.

Beltran refused to comment further on the murder of the actor, saying: "Let's just wait for the prosecutor to decide on the issue."

He said the results of the forensic examination on the evidence collected from the crime scene were expected to be released in the coming days.

SOS from Manukan

He also said police were optimistic that they could retrieve the gun and bullet used to kill Ramgen Bautista and wound Manukan.

Quoting witnesses gathered from subdivision, Ilo said the house help of the Parañaque-based Manukan's cries after the attack.

However, he said, police and forensic examiners learned about the attack from one of Manukan's friends who alerted authorities through hotline 117.

The wounded Manukan managed to send text messages to people she knew and sought assistance from them, he said.

Quoting from the eyewitness accounts of Manukan, Senior Superintendent Beltran said that she asked Mona to call for an ambulance but the latter left without saying a word and never came back.

RAMGEN BAUTISTA AND JANELLE MANUKAN A television report quoting Janelle's former ops—she is within the hospital recuperating from her wounds and has not been told that her boyfriend Ramgen is dead and has been buried.

Bong: I'm not senator of Revillas but of entire country

From page A1

HEAVY BURDEN Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. and wife Rep. Lani Mercado arrive at the wake of Ramgen Bautista at Angeles Memorial Funeral Homes, Cavite. In the interview with the Inquirer on Friday, the senator kept repeating "mahirap," referring to the family ordeal. She denies and the accused are his siblings.

have continued obstruction of justice.

"I am cooperative. I cannot be the first to violate due process," he said.

Thinking she is ego-hunted to (1) find pity for his siblings, (2) be considered as innocent and (3) avoid Bureau troubles. "But there is due process; there is the law that must be followed."

The senator said he had told family members that if Ke Ramirez, 18, were innocent, this should not be worried. "If there is nothing to hide, if there is no liability, then there is nothing to fear," he said to Filipinos on their lives.

Ramgen and RJ Bautista are two of the nine children of the late Gen. Ramon Revilla Sr. in addition to Ramona Revilla Bautista, actress Geneva Magsaysay. Their mom Ma. Remedios, is also implicated in the killing of Ramgen and the wounding of his girlfriend Janelle Manukan.

Ramona Bautista, 22, wrote day after that she was not abducted by her brother's attorney, as she had earlier claimed.

Reached by phone last night, Revilla Jr. expressed surprise at Ramona's statement.

"I'm speechless. I don't know what to say," he said. "I just hope she's telling the truth this time."

Leo Palace mall

Revilla Jr. was present when Ramona told Leo Palace CEO person-in-charge Rosalyn Ilo on Oct. 29 that her brother's attackers forced her into a van after he was killed.

She said the van was driven by the residence of Illana Mercado even before she was let off and abandoned near a mall on Alabang-Zapote Road in Las Piñas.

The senator said he still welcomed Ramona's belated admission because it would help investigators piece together what really took place on the night of the murders.

"All I want is justice for Ramgen," he said.

Late yesterday afternoon, Revilla Jr. unfurled statement when told that his sister had recanted her claim of abduction.

"I haven't been answering the news today," he said. "Maybe she's under pressure or she told investigators the proper version then per her statement."

The senator also clarified reports that Ramona was in his custody at the time her sister was included in the charge sheets.

"When we left the Las Piñas] premises, she rode with me in my vehicle and we returned to the hospital where Ramgen was taken. When I left her, she was with her brothers and sisters, at that time. [RJ] was also with them," the senator recalled.

Invited for questioning

Pampanga Province, 35, was shot and stabbed a number of times in the family residence in BF Homes, Parañaque City, late on Oct. 28. At least one witness and two other suspects have tagged RJ Bautista in the murder.

Revilla Jr. said that when RJ was being arrested at about 11:30 p.m. on Oct. 31, he phoned the latter and asked to speak to the arresting officer, whose name he could no longer recall.

He said that he asked the police officer if there was an arrest warrant, and that the officer said RJ was being "invited for questioning" in relation to Ramgen's death.

He quizzed the officer as saying that certain people had pointed to RJ as involved in the murder.

The senator said he pointed out to the police officer that RJ was being taken without a lawyer.

"You cannot question my brother until his lawyer arrives. That's going to be audited," he said he remembered telling the officer.

"Don't worry, sir," he quoted the officer as saying. "We will not ask him questions until he arrives."

On Thursday, RJ Bautista's lawyer Dennis Almenario filed a motion to dismiss the murder charge. Prosecutor's Office presiding his warrantless arrest and seeking his immediate release.

Difficult situation

Revilla Jr. said the family was on pins and by the turn of events.

"The situation is very difficult because both the victim and the accused are my half-brothers," he said.

Throughout the 10-minute interview, the senator kept repeating the words "mahirap (grave)" and "mahirap (difficult)" in describing the family's ordeal.

Then father, Revilla Jr., was confined at St. Luke's hospital in Bonifacio Global City where the Parañaque police announced that RJ had been tagged as the mastermind of his brother's murder.

Revilla Jr. said he and his siblings, along with the doctors, recommended there future when he was informed of the development.

"So was shocked," the senator recalled. "Daddy's vomiting, shaking when he (reportedly) said, 'Let the law take its course.'"

Revilla Jr. said he and his siblings had no choice but to make the decision to check Gelbo.

"We were all in the room. We should know what's going on. But we did it in favor of the doctors [to make sure]," Revilla Jr. said.

Are we dreaming?"

Revilla Jr. has since called for a microregulation of the case.

He said that at this point, the family only wanted the truth to come out and for justice to be delivered to Ramgen.

The senator also said he had been losing sleep and sleeping since his brother was killed.

"I would fall asleep but wake up in the middle of the night. I keep seeing Ramgen's face," he said, sobbing.

"This is a nightmare. I would tell myself, 'Are we dreaming?' Is this all true?' I am still hoping that this is all a bad dream.

"If you were in my shoes—hindsight is long or some, I want justice. I want to know the truth. We brothers, sisters and I think of nothing else but heaven help our half-siblings."

OMG, CIA's 'vengeful librarians' tracking Twitter, Facebook

From page A1

ual dual sources—anything overseas that anyone can access and contribute to openly.

From drones in Mombasa Denmark, to brain surgery theatres in Pakistan, to the underground gather the information. While in earlier tempo. They review rather since it with the local newspaper or a neighborhood teleconferencing please conversation. From there, they build a picture sought by the highest levels of the White House, giving a real-time peek, for example, at the mood of a region after the Navy SEAL raid that killed Osama bin Laden or perhaps a prediction of which Mideast nation needs aid the most.

Yes, they use the opening in Egypt covering they and didn't know exactly where revolution might hit, said this senior U.S. diplomat, Doug Ollivant.

The number already had "positive political sociological effects" the Egypt constitutional opening change and a theatre, the regime," he said in a recent interview with The Associated Press at the center. "Its officials spent was the first such

9/11 offshoot

The CIA facility was set up in response to a recommendation in the 9/11 Commission, with its first activity to focus on counterterrorism. But it quickly followed an unorthodox path, creating a small handful was born—the school number is classified—but a broad range. It uses Orwellian Internet names to the mood as The Onion in Pakistan.

While most are based at Virginia, the analysts also are based in several throughout US Embassies worldwide to get a day closer to the pulse of their subjects.

The mood was candid analysts, Ollivant said, are something like the first one of the citizen spies.

"But don't write that Dungeon Tactics," a quirky, irreverent computer-hacker who "knows how to find stuff on the people don't wanna wrote."

Those with boundary degree in library sciences and multiple languages, especially those who grew up speaking another language, "make a powerful open-source officer," Ollivant said.

The center had started focusing on social media after watching how Twitter and Facebook helped organize the Green Revolution of 2009, when Iranians protested the results of the election. But just hours after President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad took power.

Two years later, the CIA's analysts walk us in U.S. President Barack Obama's daily briefing, describing how to come to another, unconventional idea.

After Bin Laden was killed in Pakistan in May, the CIA followed Twitter to gauge the White House's snapshot of world public opinion.

Some tweets can't necessarily be pegged to a geographic location, the analysts broke down reaction by languages. The result: The majority of its tweets, the language of Pakistan, and Chinese tweets, were negative. Those in a close ally of Pakistan's. Pakistani officials protested the raid as an affront to their nation's sovereignty, a core point that continues to complicate U.S.-Pakistani relations.

What the U.S. president gave his speech addressing Mideast issues a few weeks after the raid, the most response ever. Beyond 23 hours came in negative from Turkey, Egypt, Yemen, Algeria, the Persian Gulf and Israel, with tweeters of Arabic and Turkic levels disagreeing that Obama favored Israel, and Hebrew levels demeaning the speech as pro-Arab.

In the next few days, major news media came to the same conclusion, as did analysts for the court side of U.S. intelligence based on statements and human-intelligence gathered in the region.

Polling validation

The center is also in the process of comparing its social media results with the track record of polling organizations, trying to see which produces more accurate results, Rasplin said.

"We do what we can to predict that we may be getting an inaccurate assessment of the situation," said Rasplin, acknowledging that only a small slice of the population in many areas they are monitoring has access to computers and Internet. But he points out that access is not necessary since via cellphones is growing in areas like Africa, meaning a wide portion of the population there plus neighbors can't counting off and holding for Barrel might appear if you count the Internet hookups in a given country."

Sites like Facebook and Twitter also have become a key resource for followings has been rising in the last few Arab that raged across Bangkok in April and May of last year, the center's deputy director said. The Associated Press opened a Arabic-friendly Twitter feed to examine still works underscore in its hope countries.

Secret location

As director, Rasplin is mainly that publicly, by the agency although the location of the center is kept secret to deter attacks, whether physical or electronic.

The Bangkok crisis

The deputy director was one of the relatively few of U.S. government employees who kept the 2010 violence in Bangkok running throughout the rioting in protesters surged through the streets, overturning fire vehicles, neighborhood and trapping 85 diplomats and Thais alike in their homes.

The facts seized in, and held-based media reporting showed by a Middle American members were the other trapped or closed by government forces.

"But within without, it was all hanging out on Twitter and Facebook," the deputy director said. The CIA focused on 12 to 15 users who tweeted situation reports and photos of pictures of demonstrations. The CIA staff came referenced the tweeters, with the twitter users open to Spain and other among them was providing valuable information," Rasplin also pulled Bangkok on providing real-time information and had filled gaps in official accounts.

"That helped us to see clear to those stories we could count on," he said.

Ultimately, some fear the fruit of the reports coming out of the workshop being sent the CIA's all branches of government in Washington came from the CIA's open source analysts throughout the globe.

AP

GMA travel hangs on legal, medical, political factors

From page A1

According to Budget Secretary Florencio Abad Jr., a major political adviser of Mr. Aquino, the issue hinges on three considerations—medical, legal and political.

Aytona, who wants to walk afterwards in order to exercise abroad for his irreparable condition, has written to De Lima asking to be cleared for travel, promising to return as asked. And in the travel authority—he is an accredited political ally to Gov. 11 coming Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, Congressman Jesse Robredo, Congressman Rolando Andaya Jr. and Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr.—approved by the secretary general of the House of Representatives.

Three considerations

Abad said, "The medical question is: What is GMA's state of health? Is it serious enough to warrant travelling abroad for further medical care?"

"The legal question is: Is there legal basis to restrict GMA's right to travel and her right to seek medical treatment from doctors/hospitals of her choice? Do the lies cases filed against her—electoral sabotage and graft—provide that basis?"

"And finally, political. What political risk would be behind the President in case he allows her to leave and then later on the government is unable to bring her back home to face trial on cases filed against her. Noncompliance by GMA to court processes and orders may result in the issuance of a hold departure order which may be the proper court action."

"There is no criminal information filed in any court or tribunal against former President Arroyo to justify the delay in the release of her right to travel; courts have jurisdiction over cases only when they have been filed in court," he said.

Legarda-Trillanes filed the petition, docketed as G.R. No. 200344, on Oct. 18, 2011.

Legarda-Trillanes said the petitioner's right to travel and to seek medical treatment abroad is guaranteed by the Constitution and by international conventions.

She said the petitioner's right to travel is subject only to such limitations as may be provided by law in the interest of national security, public safety or public health.

She said the only time restraints that would restrict a citizen's right to travel which is enshrined in the Constitution's Bill of Rights, he said.

"It is not a question of compassion, accommodation or even health condition but a matter of the constitutional right to travel which former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo must exercise without any impediment or restraint," he said.

Legarda-Trillanes said the justice department's search list order was not enough to deprive the person of the right to travel because it is not equivalent to a hold departure order which only the proper court can issue.

"There is no criminal information filed in any court or tribunal against former President Arroyo to justify the delay in the release of her right to travel; courts have jurisdiction over," said Legarda.

Legarda has filed House Bill No. 5111, "An Act Upholding the Constitutional Right to Travel and Granting to the Proper Court the Exclusive Jurisdiction to Issue Hold Departure Orders" to comply with Congress' constitutional mandate to enact a law guaranteeing a person's right to travel.

File charges now

A House party list member, fearing that Arroyo would take her case to the Supreme Court, urged De Lima and Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales to unconditionally file even just one case against Arroyo and get a facial document order from a court.

"They should now devote the book in 6046, some of these complaints have been languishing with our prosecution for a long time," Bello said. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who, with others, has filed graft charges against Arroyo.

"The Aquino administration is doing another ploy in the love once the former President brings her case to the Supreme Court," he said.

Cebu Rep. Joseph Emilio Abaya, a member of the ruling Liberal Party, suggested that Arroyo seek for the results of the preliminary investigation of the complaints against her before going abroad since, he said, her absence was not life-threatening.

"If there is no finding of probable cause, there no problem. If there is finding of probable cause there she should have been in custody and allow the court to recognize jurisdiction over her. She can then apply for medical treatment abroad. Hopefully, she will be much better then and not should all pray for God," said Abaya, stressing that this was his personal opinion.

2 bishops for allowing travel

Two Catholic bishops, who want Arroyo's unconditional release, said the former President should be allowed to travel abroad to seek medical treatment.

Retired Davao Archbishop Oscar Cruz said that since Arroyo has not been charged in court, the release her constitutional rights to travel.

"If her sickness becomes fatal, Dr. Lim gets all the blame and Arroyo becomes a kind of martyr," said Cruz.

"If she does not come back, then her flight is a sign of guilt," he said.

But Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said Arroyo should be allowed to travel if the treatment is available only abroad. "But there should be a guarantee for her return." **With a report from Jerome Aning**

Bishops hit P-Noy over doles to rebels

By Jerome Aning

DIVINE Catholic bishops yesterday expressed distrust at the revelation that the Aquino administration gave millions of pesos in dole-outs to the seven-member Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Abu Sayyaf group (ASG), a terrorist group responsible for rapes, kidnappings and beheadings.

In separate interviews over Dr. Cirse Evans Radio Veritas, Bishop Leonardo Medroso of Tagbilaran, Deputy Bishop Emeritus Godido and Catholic Archbishop Bishop Colbert Rapsing said there would be no justification for the dole-outs to insurgents.

Like arming enemy

Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles, who used to be a chaplain for the military, said he found the news "very distressing."

They will not bring peace to the country, he said.

"It will mean more dead soldiers, widows and orphans. It is paying them to destroy our country. It's like arming the enemy. They might use it to buy arms so that they can become stronger," Arguelles said in an interview.

Pedrito Medroso said the [illegible] should be ensured through government agencies and non-government organizations that are not armed, Arguelles said.

"Those should go straight to the poor to uplift them and not for the leaders only," he said.

"(The government) can give monetary help to those people for development once they have already removed armed entrenchments and clearly opted for peace. But the MILF is armed group, so it is suspicious," he said.

He said soldiers have become demoralized because while there is a shortage of bullets and new uniforms, the government was giving millions of pesos to the ARB and MILF.

"They're demoralized, especially the relatives of those who were killed in action, the widows and the orphans. The government is helping the enemy," he said.

Medroso said the government and the rebel groups should be transparent and make public the details of their peace talks and why money was involved.

Taxpayers' lunch

"There are taxpayers' funds. Even if we're not immediately told about the details of the peace talks for security reasons, when it comes to the financial aspect and programs, these should be made public. Blood and money were involved in the negotiations and the funds were just given like that, 'Hindwan sani.'

Lidato said he believes dole-outs would not advance the peace process. "What is the intention, why give that money to rebels? If you give money to rebels to buy guns, I think it will not benefit both parties," he said.

Rapsing said the allocations of such dole-outs could be listed as "intelligence funds" which the government's acquiescence can be described as "bribery."

"These groups are enemies of the state. It's almost like [we have elements] or criminals extending favor businessmen or the government," said Rapsing. "I don't see any reason they would be bothered, if they give, they accept. This is not good," Rapsing said.

Several dioceses in Mindanao will commemorate the "Mindanao Week of Peace" from Nov. 24 to Dec. 1 to promote unity and friendship among the various peoples of the island.

Military no longer recognizes 'ATS' anywhere

From page A1

"MILF-affiliated communities" where the government agreed a ceasefire with the rebels.

Ochoa explained that the Ad Hoc Ad 073 was established in 2007 in a meeting of chiefs then that resulted in the killing of 14 Marines, 10 of whom were beheaded. It was established so the MILF rebels would not get in the way of military pursuit operations against the perpetrators of the beheadings.

"After the termination of operations by AFP, it was also terminated, Inc., technically, there is no ATS," Ochoa told reporters.

An "MILF-affiliated communities" in Al-Barka's Barangay Guiamelo is used by both recognized by authorities.

The chief reiterated that the MILF should surrender its firearms to the AFP, as was demanded, Inc., Ochoa said. Only then will the government be able to fully implement the peace agreement.

"The MILF should surrender its firearms to the AFP, as was demanded, Inc., Ochoa said. Only then will the government be able to fully implement the peace agreement.

Pursuit continues

Our pursuit operations are ongoing. We are mandated to pursue the group of Malar and Ameril Umbra Kato but they may be found," he said.

If the two wanted outlaws are found inside "MILF-influenced communities, we are mandated to enforce the law to capture and neutralize them, Ochoa said.

But with the ceasefire still in effect, Ochoa said the military will first exhaust peace mechanisms to minimize casualties among civilians, Aster soldiers per Maj. Harold Cabunoc said.

"Our operations will go all out to neutralize the remaining [illegible] and criminals. But 'if the MILF refuses to cooperate, we will proceed. We don't desire the loss," he said.

"The AFP will not lose sleep over the civilians," Cabunoc said, adding that they are still waiting for the MILF to respond through the ceasefire committee.

KL peace talks

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, talmet peace negotiators for the government and the Muslim rebels met for the first time on Tuesday since the recent bloody clashes, both sides said they agreed to assuage the Oct. 16 ambush.

The military and the MILF have accused each other of breach of the ceasefire agreement during the clashes.

"We agreed [that] investigations through the ceasefire mechanisms shall continue to be conducted. These include those to be done by the international monitoring team in coordination with the Philippine government and the ad hoc joint action group," said Rhetta Lessen, the government chief negotiator, in a statement issued after the talks.

Lessen said the government will send for the result of the investigations and will study the recommendations from the monitoring team and ad hoc joint action group.

Mohagher Iqbal, the MILF chief negotiator, said in a statement that the rebels also "reaffirmed" their cooperation with the government's campaign against rogue rebel criminals.

"The MILF will continue to cooperate with government with respect to the effort to apprehend the perpetrators of the Al Barka group, criminal syndicates, and lost criminals" it announced with the joint commission and implementing guidelines of the ad hoc group," Iqbal said.

Silent on Arroyo

Both parties were silent on the issue of the ceasefire violations against women.

Lidato said he believes dole-outs would not advance the peace process. "What is the intention, why give that money to rebels? If you give money to rebels to buy guns, I think it will not benefit both parties," he said.

Rapsing said the allocations of such dole-outs could be listed as "intelligence funds" which the government's acquiescence can be described as "bribery."

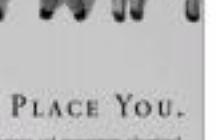
"These groups are enemies of the state. It's almost like [we have elements] or criminals extending favor businessmen or the government," said Rapsing. "I don't see any reason they would be bothered, if they give, they accept. This is not good," Rapsing said.

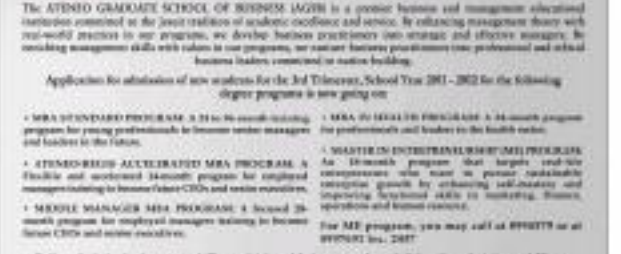
Several dioceses in Mindanao will commemorate the "Mindanao Week of Peace" from Nov. 24 to Dec. 1 to promote unity and friendship among the various peoples of the island.

On Thursday, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said the arrest order against Ameril would be enforced anew.

Gazmin's statement came in the wake of the admission from ranking military commanders in Mindanao that fresh soldiers had been deployed in Al-Barka.

Lessen said that there were also other subordinate points on Thursday's meeting. "As we had hoped, we agreed to assess forward on the substantive agenda and mind agenda very soon for this purpose," he said. **With a report by Lagua, Inquirer Mindanao**





Ahead. WHERE WE PLACE YOU.

The ATENEO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (AGSB) is a premier business and management educational institution committed to the Jesuit tradition of academic excellence and service. By enhancing management theory with real-world practice in our programs, we develop business practitioners into strategic and effective managers. By enriching management skills with values in our programs, we nurture business practitioners into professional and ethical business leaders committed to nation-building.

Applications for admission of new students for the 3rd Trimester, School Year 2011 - 2012 for the following degree programs is now going on:

- MBA STANDARD PROGRAM: A 21 to 36-month training program for young professionals to become senior managers and leaders in the future.
- ATENEO-RIEDL ACCELERATED MBA PROGRAM: A flexible and accelerated 16-month program for employed managers training to become future CEOs and senior executives.
- MIDDLE MANAGER MBA PROGRAM: A focused 28-month program for employed managers training to become future CEOs and senior executives.
- MBA (EVENING) PROGRAM: A 36-month program for professionals and leaders in the health sector.
- MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT (MIM) PROGRAM: An 18-month program that targets end-tide entrepreneurs who want to pursue sustainable enterprise growth by enhancing self-mastery and improving behavioral skills in marketing, finance, operations and human resources.

For ME program, you may call at 8998877 or at 8997601 loc. 2407

Online admission is also accepted. Please visit http://gsb.ateneo.edu and click online admission and fill out the application form. For more details email emanuelbergado@gsb.ateneo.edu or bbernardo@gsb.ateneo.edu

SCHEDULE OF ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS: 8:00 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 19 & Dec. 3, 2011

Ahead. WHERE LEADERS PLACE THEMSELVES.

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

ATENEO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS BUILDING
ROCKWELL DRIVE, ROCKWELL CENTER, CITY OF MAKATI, PHILIPPINES
OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
TEL.: (632) 899-0001 TO 08 OR (632) 729-0011 TO 2000 • FAX: (632) 899-0100
WEBSITE: HTTP://GSB.ATENEO.EDU

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

'Deluge of hope'

HIS NAME may not ring as loudly as hearing champ Manny Pacquiao's or Miss Universe Pagnaoe third runner-up Shamcey Supsup's but, young as he is, he is definitely an achievement that often more promise to the country's future, although it has been much, much less appreciated by his fellow Filipinos.

Adrian Reginald Ty, 14, a first year high school student of St. Jude Catholic School in Manila, scored 100 percent in the 2011 Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC). He was among the 27 students from nine countries—Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, China and the Philippines—who garnered a perfect score in the annual contest that was participated in by more than 300,000 students from around the world. And it is not the first time he accomplished the feat in an international competition. In July 2010, then 13 years old, he also aced the 14-nation 12th Primary Mathematics World Contest (PRIMC).

Even more heartening, by a one-day-only Filipino young one excelling in such events. In the same 2011 AMC, 10 other Filipino math wizards won Prize awards, and 60 more placed among the top 2 percent of the more than 300,000 participants. In last year's AMC, by way given a Prize award for being among the top 1 percent of over 400,000 participants; four other Filipinos, with identical scores at 97.5 percent, were among the 65 contestants from different countries who topped the event.

"The Philippines continues to do so well in the AMC," Andrew Byrne, deputy head of mission of the Australian Embassy in Makati City, noted, and commended the awardees for their "mastery of math, the language of modern life."

However, AMC is not the only international math competition where our numbers seen have stood out. Last month, students from Metro Manila won 34 medals in all of these golds, in the Wizards at Mathematics International Competition (Wimic) held in Ludhiana, India. Earlier, in September, Filipino students bagged 56 medals in the 13-nation 8th International Mathematics and Science Olympiad (Imso), clinching top honor with Singapore and Thailand.

This continuing series of achievements in an international arena is obviously not a trend of recent origin. Early last year, the Department of Science and Technology recognized 300 elementary and high school students who, all together, won 450 medals in more than a dozen international math and science competitions in 2009, for bringing honor to the country and exemplary achievement, awarding each of these the Pilo Hizark Excellence for Science) medal and unveiling them in the "roster of honorable young men and women." Then Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro hailed them as an "overflowing deluge of hope for the Philippines."

To end conspiracy's models these this deluge surges on to the city. "How and more Filipino math students are getting competitive. We hope they would inspire other kids to do the same, especially those in public schools," Dr. Simeon Chua, president of Mathematics Trainers' Guild-Phils. IMTG), enthused on their AMC awards.

Ironically, the achievements of our numbers seen look more like an exception and all the more stand out because the performance of our students in the Trends in International Math and Science Study (TIMSS) test, which is held every four years by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) and conducted by the US-based National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), has been mostly "dismal" and has become "a cause for national shame," to borrow the words of Butch Hernandez, the executive director of the Ilgilo Agustin Foundation, whose main advocacy is ed-ja-ja-ja education.

It is noteworthy that the same schools, more or less—like St. Jude Catholic School in Manila, Philippine Science High School in Quezon City, Chiang Kai Shek College, Xavier School, Ateneo Christian Academy, Brent School, etc., among other schools—are the source of our numbers seen, many of whom are also winners of MTG. This clearly tells us that an effective, sparkle method of teaching Math is not beyond our reach. The question is, what is keeping our education officials from adopting this model for all our schools?

Founding Chair: EUGENIO D. APOSTOL
Publisher: ISABELO VILLAREAL
Editor-in-Chief: LETTY JANE-MANGALINDAN
Managing Editor: JOSE NEIL O. ROLLON
Assistant Editor: ANNALIZA G. DUMLAO
Assistant Editor for Leadership: ROLANDO S. GASPILLO
Opinion Editor: JOSEFINA C. ABOITIZ
News Editor: ARTHUR P. ESPIRITU JR. | Chief Copy Desk Specialist: NELIA B. PADUA
Chief Photographer: RAFFY LERMA
Multimedia: FRANCHESCA B. ESPIRITU JR.
Senior Desk Editor: JOSE F. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant: AMADEO ORTIZMAS
Chief Photographer: ISMAEL D. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director: ISMAEL D. SARMIENTO
Board Chair: MARIA D. PADIU
President: ANNAMARIE PADIU-BONNEVIE
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing: EDWARD D. ADARNA
Vice President for Advertising: FILMER D. CRUZADO
Vice President for Sales: ENRIQUE D. LOPEZ
Vice President for Finance: JOSE M. FAJARDO
AVP for Circulation: MARIA GARMEN R. CRISOSTOMO
Corporate Affairs Manager: EDWARD P. BALAGTAS

All rights reserved. Except as provided by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher. For reprint rights, contact...

No perfect world

VIEWPOINT

Jaime L. Bercades

"WHAT IFS" of or stated is an ZEN'T stopped journalist Jerry Tuazon. Many came to know about "sense of temporary stay" only after the Oct. 29 flashlight in Boston.

Mayo Islamic Liberation Front troops, from middle Al-Haris killed 19 soldiers seeking to serve warrants on Ens Lahara Ameera and companions. Six soldiers were captured, and executed. Their bodies were mutilated.

Another led a 3,007 clash where 13 Marines were later found beheaded. Killers using cell phones of the dead Marines taunted their families. Another ambushed from a border raid in 2006. The MILF has dragged its feet, so far, in having warrants served on former and his group.

The Ferry Salalo decoration of the dead. Brutal is didn't. Both the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and Crimes against International Humanitarian Law (RA 9851) prohibit wanton killing of civilians, hostages's food Pangalengan points out.

MILF spokespersons disclosed the modifications are by blaming "miscommunication." "In taking part in a cover-up, it invites application of the Anti-Terrorism Council and the MILF under Haji Murad Ibrahim," Ferrer pinpointed. Even if actual killers are not identified, commanding officers can be punished.

The Philippines entered the ICC two months ago. So, to bag the MILF bull on the ICC, UP Prof. Harry Roque rather suggested. It will "freeze the Philippine government enough weight to get its MILF policy without breaking the law."

By happenstance, the Al Barka encounter occurred before the Philippines and 11 Asian countries meet in Byala, to hold-men training mechanisms "to prevent victims of armed conflicts... and promote strict observance of international humanitarian law."

The round-table discussion will consider the Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions, explained the convenors, namely, the International Committee of the Red Cross-Red Crescent and partners Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There are 27 states (for the party) to 49 I and 166 to 49 II, Ambassador Hideaki Ochi explained.

At Bayala airport still and the Tuesday both government and the MILF agreed that "hostilities of the Al Barka incident through ceasefire mechanisms. And it continues." Philippine negotiator Marvic Leonen told the MILF traditional pledges to "initiate follow-up for reasons groups, criminal syndicates and lost commands..."

Individuals or gangs are numbering deficits the old Filipino proverb says. "Death show what a man is." But Al Barka encounter seems wholly without fuss—and probing questions.

Government "flats with the status of a 'failed state,' if the MILF abuses AIT," Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago reminded. Sen. Pimble Lacson puts AIT to an agreement signed in Indonesia, between government and the MILF under Haji Murad Ibrahim. Sen. Francis Escudero lists AIT's could trigger a focus like the 2008 Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) in 2008.

In AIT's relatively short life (almost seven years), (1) Let's quit the body right first, Judge Soliman M. Santos Jr. suggests in a new paper; "On AIT and ICC Jurisdiction."

JP Perez published Justice "Constitutional Rethinking for the Mindanao Free Frontal" in 2002. Mr. Lotbiniol (2011) "In Defense of Self Thinking Beyond the GRP-MILF MOA-AD." He cited Ireland "Friends" and Peru model, "a study of armed groups and human-security efforts in the Philippines.

Peace talks started in early 1997. The spokesmen in Indonesia during the Ramos administration (1992-98) clash with the Moro National Liberation Front.

The May 6, 2002 Joint Communique, issued in Malaysia, one the GRP and MILF agree "to coordinated and joint solution and interdiction" of criminals. This included so-called "lost commands" operating in Mindanao, in may be found to "MILF areas or communities." Implementing guidelines were issued in December.

There is no definition of AIT in any peace document, Santos notes. It developed as an ad hoc arrangement on the ground. MILF forces and families linked many where the AFP "crushed them" on criminals. "You will never get that kind of cooperation from the New People's Army (NPA) with its quasi-libertarians."

Both arrangements and agreement are time-bound. They were to be supervised by the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities and the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group. AIT would be "dissolved" after AFP operations. MILF forces and families could then return.

That led AIT-which the Barangay Umbaya of or the 2007 Imbroglio of Masters. Ateneo says, to Banks a several laboratories areas (Tau Baro island in Barangay Gumbay where the mortars are happened.).

"Were law since been established or to existing. As recently as September, the Supreme Justice for the MILF to if to make it perpetually immune from control by the AFP.

"In a perfect world, why should AFP soldiers be restrained from entering MILF areas" But to the AFP and the JCHP are technically still not more of war, albeit with a general ceasefire, a peace process is ongoing (if unsteady) to resolve the war in a non-military way).

"The crucial need is for a ceasefire agreement pending a revised and lasting peace. The peace process in the Mindanao, with both the MNLF and MILF has at least had the benefit of a general ceasefire that held for five years part."

In contrast, that has been absent between the AFP and BIM, in the peace process on the communist front MILF forces and families are not people, government considers them part of the Filipino people. Are people not more important than the concept of territorial sovereignty?

(Email: manilawatch@gmail.com)

Stop the farce

GET REAL

Sixto Collas-Monreal

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES is crying foreclosure by its employees and their union (PALEA) and wholesale dissolution by its management. Both the Makati Business Club (sort of like a "we're all in this together and if it can happen to us it can happen to you" concerned message.

Unbelievable. In the past decade the public has been subject to have hefty PAL fare raised by pilots' unreasonable demands for huge hikes in entry-level wages, although its legislation is in personal pilots from working for foreign airlines) and to flight attendant flying, then relenting at entry-level wages, onerous working and to increase conditions, long absences one, nevertending CBA negotiations. And now, it wants to grow its ground crew for same then and so him-at-entry-level wages treatment, rightly modified. Chutzpah.

Prove where I'm. PAL is not the victim of labor unions' deified Wall hunting, is the cabmanagers' but the employees of labor. It has been doing it for a long time, but this is beyond the pale. It should not be allowed to get away with it. Duly consider.

Fact, the background: In 1998, PAL was in financial trouble as a result of a pilots' strike, and as part of its rehabilitation plan downsized its labor force somewhat. Many pilots, including those in the early-level salaries (i.e., less of seniority—the start of a pattern). The Palos were unable to protect the downsizing, and then President Joseph Estrada, a great friend of PAL owner Lucio Tan, created an Interagency task force to mediate an agreement between PAL and Palea.

The agreement included Palea consenting to a 10-year suspension of the PAL Palea Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), in an effort to restore conditions and potential investors of industrial peace. In effect, Palea not only agreed to freeze the pilots' wages, no wage increase would be decided solely by management, but that there would also be a 10-year moratorium on strikes. Does that sound like PAL now is victimized Palea the predator?

After the 10-year period, during which the employees were given yearly wage increases (they were less than what they had been receiving with previous CBAs), PAL announced to Palea (August 2010) that it intended to spin off/outsource the airport services department (entry activity of PAL) and ground (to the airport), as well to the catering department. Does that sound like PAL was a victim and Palea the aggressor?

Just like that. Having gone without bargaining for 10 years, in order to help PAL have its finances restored, that is. Now Palea's pilots are rewarded. And up to that time, PAL has enjoyed—as we down with Palea for CBA negotiations. Which means, as a result, that for the past three years, the PAL employees have not received any salary increase. Does that sound like PAL is a victim and Palea the aggressor?

Now that it's time to reward the employees, PAL wants to outsource them. While it is different from off-shoring (sending your function to the domain is outsourcing), most outsourcing is also off-shoring or offshore outsourcing, and our BPOs are examples. And the basic reason is for cost-cutting (e.g., in the BPO sector, Philippine or Indian labor being cheaper than American or European labor), and, as it is to do this only planned. So allow a company to concentrate on its core competencies."

That sounds good, doesn't it? Who can possibly be against such objectives? Which is why Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz and the Office of the President so unanimously talk about "management prerogative" being a valid reason for abandonment.

But hold on a moment. A closer examination of how this restructuring will take place shows how PAL's actions are ruthlessly unfair.

Consider: who is PAL going to contract these services out to? Well, how reports, it wants to contract the airport services (passenger, baggage, cargo, handling, equipment maintenance) to a company called Sky Logistics, and then sell no longer need the services of about 1,000 current employees. It intends to contract to airflight catering activities to a company called Sky Kitchen, then no longer requiring the services of 400 current PAL employees. And finally the concessionaire and bookings will be contracted out to a call center staffed 300 clerks), thus making another 300 of its employees redundant.

The problem, dear reader, is that with the exception of MVGlobal (whatever FLEX-1082 sure, and which probably marred the career that Miss-a) Magdalena was about to buy 98%), the other two companies have absolutely no experience in the services they are supposed to provide, and were in fact reportedly incorporated only in 2009 (when PAL announced it was outsourcing). It seems that their only claim to airline services activities is that they are both named Sky.

Sky Logistics and Sky Kitchen are reportedly owned by Lucio Tan's favorite nephew, Michael Dee. Ownership from Cebu...no relationship at all with the Cebu franchise. I presume to look up their financials and their other owners, if any.

So, if these two corporations are new and untested, why did PAL choose them? Only will not speculate. But rather than attempt to do the dirty game of cheap its employees a favor) is to have these firms hire the 2,400 employees it wants to remove it...but at many level salaries. Again. You will raise PAL since this technique, that's where the cost savings will come from.

In other words, PAL is outsourcing employees of living its employees, and then hiring them at many-level wages through what looks like a couple of dummy corporations.

Stop the farce. Stop the exploitation.

An afterlife? Yes

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

Females	64	18
18-24	66	29
25-34	81	22
35-44	65	18
45-54	67	14
55-up	63	10
Up to some elementary	55	18
Up to some high school	58	21
Up to some college	63	18
College graduates	68	17

The lowest percentages of Filipino believers are the 55 of elementary dropouts and the 56 in the 18-24 ages, per these new outright majorities. Note also that belief rises with schooling and social class, suggesting that the belief in an afterlife will be reinforced if people get better off over time.

The average result on the afterlife item for the 40 ISSP countries that did the last religion module was: 26 percent Definitely Yes, 25 percent Probably Yes, 17 percent Probably No, 24 percent Definitely No, and 10 percent Can't Choose/No Answer. That 49-percent majority "probably believes/probably does not believe" is not very fun.

For the entire ISSP set, the percentages definitely probably believing in an afterlife are: Turkey 96, Philippines 85, Chile, Ireland and Iceland/Sweden 79, Mexico/Dominican Republic 72, South Africa 71, Poland and Cyprus/SK, Italy 65, Israel 63, Martinique 58, New Zealand, Switzerland and Taiwan 55, Croatia and Uruguay 54, Slovak Republic and even Britain 53, Austria and South Korea 49, Sweden 47, Australia 45, the Netherlands, Portugal and Japan 44, Spain 43, Norway, Finland, Slovenia and Latvia 41, Ukraine 39, Russia 37, France and Germany 36, Hungary 35, Denmark 34, Belgium 26, and Czechoslovakia 20.

So, rule Mahar Turkey is relatively new ISSP member extends the Philippines its belief in an afterlife.

Belief in God, the other hand, I have argued with Johnny's continuation that "38 percent believe in a Supreme Being," presumably of the Ex-Im McCann survey.

The ISSP religion module (which all ISSP members vote to fill) and in the same sequence, since the objective is international comparisons) had two items to describe belief in God, one for believers of belief and another for here being the belief has been held.

The first item offered six choices of firmness, and resulted in 81 percent of Filipinos claiming "I know that God really exists and I have no doubts about it," and 9 percent choosing "While I have doubts, I feel that I do believe in God."

The other results for firmness of belief were: 3 percent for "I find myself believing in God some of the time, but not at others," 2 percent for "I don't believe in a personal God, but I do believe in a higher Power of some kind," 2 percent for "I don't know whether there is a God and I don't believe there is any way to find out" (i.e. the agnostics), and 3 percent for "I don't believe in God" (i.e. the atheists).

This set of results for the four choices of length of time as a believer, enabled in 99 percent of Filipinos as a believer, resulted in 99 percent of Filipinos choosing "Before my God was and I always have." There were also 2 percent for "I believe in God, but I didn't use to," 2 percent for "I don't believe in God now, but I used to," and 4 percent for "I don't believe in God now and I never have", others coupled choose or didn't answer.

Remember, there are no "wrong answers"!

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar@sws.org.ph

Education is the key

I REMEMBER the person economic interview I decided that what our country really needed was not more money, not more honest politicians, not less cuts on the roads or better infrastructure, but something so seemingly available that many people—including myself, until that point—take it for granted: education.

I was in my fifth grade Ethics class. Environment was emerging as a topic that we went through for us. We had established a steady discussion on social change and how best this could be achieved in the Philippines, and the possibility that we—kids! All raised hands, under five feet, as best—could initially make a difference set our middle school minds whirring. Opinions, suggestions, perspectives were considered around the room as if attached on an invisible ping-pong ball, everyone had a chirpily ludicrous idea to share. It was when we reached the poverty cycle, however, that the animated atmosphere changed to one of tragic resignation. As opened notebooks, this caused in which many of our countrymen were stuck. Unskilled workers stuck in low-paying jobs produced offspring that were restricted to the same career paths, the same unproductive lifestyle. Wastelands' children become farmlands themselves, laborers' children become laborers. Thereafter, numerous stage members' children follow in their parents' footsteps, and the circulation machine rolls on. Our society, it seemed, was caught in a maze of uneducated manual labor—and none of the fifth graders in the room at the time seemed to be able to come up with an idea children or bother enough to order this problem and break the chains.

The simple governments—we had learned, taught us that a single unemployment—and how could one possible break a continuous line? The poverty cycle seemed, had to end.

And then, my teacher prompted: "What drives the poverty cycle? What restricts these children?" So I thought. How does one become successful?—By first finding a good starting level job and working one's way up—How might one find this "good job" to become successful?—By having a good education to have the knowledge—How would one develop good practical skills and people to become successful?—By filling it with credentials: multiple previous good jobs and relevant qualifying skills—How would one get these credentials to develop a good resume to get a good job to be successful?

And the answer was so simple, it was almost embarrassing: education.

Education, I realized, provides one opportunities and with them open options for ones life other than the paths that one seems initially restricted to. With education comes the encouragement skills of application of personality of intellectual curiosity and initiative. With education comes the fulfillment of potential and, more importantly, the chance to fulfill one's potential. Education, simply put, opens doors where there previously were none. It is in the opening of doors that education has the potential to break the shackles of the poverty cycle.

Okay, so education—now what? It all seemed well and good, this idea of mine, if we were members of a utopia in which a server of a hand could provide free quality education for all. The problem soon was that finding a way to open the doors that now seemed so temptingly done. I needed an outlet through which to promote education and did already what my fifth grade self was acting to do. I found this outlet in the form of Teach for the Philippines, a two-year fifth grade corps' path to social change. So this project, a couple of friends and I organized a concert to raise unallocated funds for some of the schools in the local area. More recently, I have found another outlet in PEEP (Promoting Excellence Education in the Philippines). This student group works with the Department of Education to bring about change through multiple trips and interactions, we visit each school and assess their needs so as to create individualized programs on how to most efficiently and effectively meet those needs. It is through my involvement in PEEP in the artistic community of Future Hero Foundation (which raises funds, through sales of artwork, for the interest level and financial aids from local public high school to the first universities in the country), and to smaller ventures that I recognize the opportunity to make a difference.

What continues to amaze me is not just the intelligence of students we work with but the desire we unfortunately especially learning. To take a group of students and ask them what they would never consider, and it inspires me in ways that words cannot express. One student we encountered in Tayabas, for example, had to be sent from the school that he was only able to attend classes from 2 week, if at all. His family's economic were so severe that they could not afford to send him every day of the week. The decision was made for him to be sent. The benefit of his commitment to his education and the difficulty through which he endured to acquire this education was unparalleled. The boy, I know, would never think about taking his opportunities for granted. Talking to him, I can pinpoint right back to my own fifth grade Ethics classroom.

What I see now have gotten in mind of important, art, insurance is a different story. Identified fifth grade self: the thought that change is attainable through as simple an outlet is education. While the realization may later come to me at a young age, children dismiss it. After thinking of ideas as grandiose and all too impressive to avoid change in the Philippines, one can never be too childish to too ludicrous.

Sofia Bonanno, 17, is a high school senior at International School Manila.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school you are in and you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Industry of critics

The one, all conscience a close. I am happy with the area my government performed; there is your on industry of critics. I spread me.

—President Aquino responding, at the end of his seven days visit to Africa, Malaysia and Indonesia after the onslaught of Typhoon "Pedring" and "Quiel"

The pentagonal framework

COMMENTARY

Butch Bernardo

FORMER EDUCATION Undersecretary Angelo Tan once told me that the Revised Basic Education Curriculum or RBEC that public Philippine public schools today is an outdone that, to be truly effective, needs to be constantly fleshed out in the classroom and the student.

Previously, I referred to the TIMSS analysis that found that "coherence, focus and rigor" were attributes necessary to the success of Singapore, Korea, Japan, Belgium, Hong Kong and the Czech Republic—countries whose students have exhibited consistently excellent performance in mathematics.

I also mentioned that the RBEC meets closely and builds on more complete concepts as the student progresses. Singapore's curriculum design on the other hand has attracted worldwide attention for a number of reasons. For instance in March 1998, the Singapore Ministry of Education (MOE) announced that it would be reducing content in the curriculum—"by up to 30 percent for the most subjects" (emphasis supplied)—in order to provide room for teachers to implement the key initiatives, namely the infusing of thinking skills and information technology and the Singapore Teach Less, Learn More policy.

The MOE made this radical move after extensive consultations regarding learning outcomes and core content with education experts and practitioners and teachers from primary, secondary, the polytechnic universities and the Institute of Technical Education. The objective of the consultations was first, to establish what constitutes "the essential knowledge, skills and values of a subject and which provides a final foundation for learning in higher levels." These concepts were to be retained. Conversely, concepts that were not fundamental or which relied on plus recall, or "which overlaps with that taught in other levels or in the same subject or with what is taught in other subjects" were to be either reduced or removed from the syllabus. The same would be done for "content which because of technical details rather than conceptual understanding and is no longer relevant in the Singapore context or in real world practice, and content which is too difficult or abstract for the intended level."

Just from the MOE promulgation alone, the "coherence and focus" of Singapore's curriculum is a very evident. The streamlining of the curriculum down to what is truly essential is a critical reform goal for any education system. As Fiona Watson, Marcia and Lim Sok Hui, MOE, discussed Singapore's Mathematics Textbooks," the issue then of such a clear and detailed curriculum enables teachers to focus on how to teach the content because what is to be taught is already determined. Contrast this scenario with what the Philippine public school teacher complains—with no small basis. If you assign the concepts she needs to teach her young wards versus the prescribed number of school days in a year, she will average about one concept a day with very little or no extra time for remediation and review.

More pertinently, I want to note of the pentagonal framework on which the Singapore curriculum is founded. You could say that going through traditional curricula—like what we have in our schools—is like going up a rope ladder, which becomes more difficult as you rise higher. The pentagonal framework on the other hand is like climbing a very big tree: you have many more handholds as you can climb much faster.

The five nodes of learning in the pentagonal framework for mathematics as described by Fong Pow Yuen, Myron and Tan PLE are: (1) conceptual understanding, (2) procedural skills, (3) processes that combine knowledge and skills that are necessary to learning and applying concepts, (4) attitudes that underscore belief in the subject or concept's usefulness and, (5) metacognition, whereby "students are able to monitor and control their thinking as they progress in problem solvers."

Singapore's curriculum stands out because it is, in the words of Wong Kwong et al., "concise, coherent and enchanted." The textbooks that support this curriculum are also quite remarkable, because of the economy is presented in a way that helps students grasp the concepts. Don't let them weigh that teachers can provide additional lessons on topics as needed without pressure to cover an extensive amount of material."

To illustrate this, here's the portion of the concept of Whole Numbers of the Singapore math curriculum syllabus for Grade One: (1) Include counting to tell the number of objects in a given set, comparing the number of objects in two or more sets, use of ordinal numbers (first up to tenth) and symbols (1st, 2nd, etc.), number notation and words (one, two, three, and) writing numbers in numerals and words, comparing and ordering numbers, and number patterns. (2) Include use of the terms "ordinal number" and "ordinal number," and use of the symbols < (greater than) and > (less than).

Wong, Lawrence, Kheong, and Lim MK, however emphasize that "Singapore's academic strength lies in its national commitment to high-quality education by goals for to students are fully supported by a systematic plan (with) a cumulative mindset and ample funding." As our friends in the Philippine Basic Education Curriculum would say, if we really are truly desirous to achieve (but is an essential, quality education has to be everybody's business. That's how Singapore does it.

Butch Bernardo (butchbernardo@gmail.com) is the executive director of the Ejggo Ayodel Foundation.

Growth prospects for PH economy

BUSINESS MATTERS

Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas

SINCE AGAIN, the Philippine economy may be one of the few in East Asia that will post a respectable GDP growth of 5 to 6 percent in 2012, despite the double-dip recession that is threatening many of the developed countries. While its export-to-GDP ratio is a standstill, the Philippines has a sufficiently large domestic market—like Indonesia and Vietnam—to continue fueling its growth with domestic consumption and investments. As no other time in the last 20 years is the Philippines nearly with local capital and enjoying relatively low rates of inflation and interest.

To further promote the gist, the Philippine government is also in the best position to lower the interest rate on its debt as the three credit rating agencies—Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investor Service and Fitch Ratings—have recently upgraded the country's economic managers for "the favorable developments in the country like on the monetary policy side." Representatives of the credit rating agencies in late September 2011 recognized the resilience of the banking sector, the improvement in the country's fiscal position (budget deficit in the first eight months was only P163 billion compared to the P300 billion ceiling set for the whole year), and the very minimal effect of the governmental to improve governance, particularly with the passage of the Reproductive Health Law and the Sin Taxes. The Investment Grade Committee of Credit Rating Agencies also mentioned the "positive economic developments could raise the Philippines an investment grade rating in the near future. Another feather in the cap for the Philippine economy was the recent awarding by the Emerging Markets magazine of the Euromoney group of the "Country of the Year" award for "Asia 2011" title to Philippine Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima.

With all these favorable developments, Philippine GDP can still rise by 6 percent in the second semester, making a 6 percent growth for the whole year in 2011. There is no more fear of overheating because there is no more excessive liquidity in the system. Neither is there any more fear of inflation because the prices of basic commodities are relatively stable. Even the prices of oil have been relatively stable in the last few months. Besides, there are numerous stable infrastructure projects at the level of the local governments' units that are being undertaken. Through the Center for Research and Communication, I work closely with a team of economists, demographers, political scientists, urban planners and public administration professors in helping develop and implement economic programs for municipalities and provinces all over the Philippines. Everywhere I see numerous versions of PPP projects that do not require any major investment on the big scale (e.g., BIR IT, DPWH, etc.) projects, power plants, etc.) that are regularly monitored by the guys.

The LGU heads are keenly aware that they have a short window of opportunity to implement projects like farm-to-market roads, irrigation systems, school buildings, health facilities, tourist-class and innovative renewable energy projects, etc. They see us a task to implement these projects because they know that they only have some 18 months before January 2013 when it would be too late to show to their respective constituents that they deserve reelection to another three-year term. Remember, That a role I believe that LGUs will contribute significantly to the increase in investments for the next 15 months. Therefore, I am bullish not only for the rest of the year but also for the whole of 2012 during which I see a 7 percent growth of GDP as attainable.

Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas is senior vice president of the University of Asia and the Pacific. His email address is bernardo.villegas@uap.asia

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

An educator's decalogue

AFTER SPENDING 27 years in the field of education, I must admit that I am leaving an elegacy only this decalogue that I have humbly lived by:

1. Kilometrico o siglo, light for it.
2. Ask questions on lessons not fully explained by teachers.
3. Seek the objective of education, not the name of the school or the teachers.
4. Hit a private school, pay your tuition, and you get premium embedded.
5. Add to a excellent development, you may have been dignified to tolerate school.
6. Take courses that will empower you as an entrepreneur, not merely you as a worker.
7. Go back to your school after receiving your first paycheck to thank your teachers, their calculator a cliche.
8. Value formation is the be-all and end-all of a school services.
9. Live it.
10. You may not know tomorrow and think, but you not known oil with GMRC (good manners and right conduct).

ID. Do anything except those that may embarrass you, your school or your family.

—ELEAZAR M. KAMAL
elmarmokal@gmail.com

Enough cause for social, public dishonor

IT HURTS. I'll bear page paper (Analysis) titled "Marcos legacy," formula "Ka Ding" (formally written "Kumagkaga thanks and violations are no justifiable argument to single out Marcos the architect from a multifaceted, blood-stricken regime of human rights ... some sectors of the left and political opponents of the Marcos regime." In Dominic saying this is why all right to violate human rights if the victims were "enemies of the Left and political opponents of the Marcos regime"?

But wasn't that the core purpose of Marcos' martial law? His purpose was to thwart Aquino so he could continue being president even after he had served the two-term constitutional limit, and if possible to be president for life. He did not only violate the legal rights of his political enemies, he also jailed them, tortured them and murdered them. The most prominent of these was former Sen. Benigno Aquino. It "thousands of students, priests, religious, social and cultural activists who fought the 14-year dictatorship were also detained and tortured and killed.

"The most damning charge against the Marcos regime is that it destroyed [Philippine democracy," Dominic noted. But, of course, To nilit decent, as pan democrats, resort to these human rights, he had to kill democracy. He had to suppress the rights of his political opponents, whether of the Left or of the Right. It also enabled them to plunder the financial and natural resources of our country with impunity.

To accuse those the violations of the human rights of leftist activists and political opponents are "fraudulent" to justify the denial to Marcos of a state funeral is to treat them somehow as inferior citizens who are not entitled to the full enjoyment of their civil, social and political liberties. The brutalities committed by the Marcos regime are enormous violations of these rights by any authority charged with enforcing the law and preventing those rights is more not just its legal entitlement but also its moral and public duties.

—REYNOLD S. ALMARIO
rpsalmario@yahoo.com
(Reviewed by: Nicolas Gilmore)
ed@manilastandard.com

It's hard to swallow Supreme Court decision on Fasap case

STEPHEN MONTEMAYOR caused the point in his letter ("Insider trading at SC?" Inquirer, 10/27/11). What he called against was the vice-chairperson Marilyn Abrahan's "bravery" to take Supreme Court decision only with "internal memory" of procedure. What Montemayor should have hammered on was the fact that Abrahan did not prevent any substantial argument at all in support of his "capital" that the previous decision be set aside, except to say that it was rendered by the "wrong" division.

Whether it was the "second division" or the "third" that should have disposed of the matter is really another beer can above under the principle that a ruling manifestly any of its divisions amounts to a ruling by the entire Supreme Court is self. Thus, the Supreme Court en banc is now an appellate tribunal to which any of its division's judgment may be appealed. For this reason, Mendoza should be seen as just exploiting and toying such a specious technicality. Because the division's decision he was recalling was for all intents and purposes the decision of the entire Supreme Court itself.

With all due respect, the Supreme Court en banc should have stated more substantial grounds to set aside its division's judgment than the mere one up in the membership of that division. The reason given was manifestly lame, considering the public ire found hard to swallow Henen Abrahan's decision.

—CLARO M. DEL MAR
gdelmar111@gmail.com

Heaven CENT!

Fares for as low as ₱0.88

Sale Period: Nov. 5 - 7, 2011 • Travel Period: Jan. 1 - Mar 31, 2012

DOMESTIC SEAT SALE

LiteFARE

₱0.88 — Cebu to Bacolod, Boracay (Caticlan), Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Clark, Davao, Dipolog, Dumaguete, General Santos, Iloilo, Legazpi, Ozamiz, Pagadian, Puerto Princesa, Siargao, Surigao, Tacloban or Zamboanga
Cagayan de Oro to Iloilo fare!

₱288 — Davao to Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo or Zamboanga
Zamboanga to Tawi-Tawi fare!

₱488 — Manila to Busuanga, Calbayog, Catarman, Cauayan (Isabela), Laoag, Legazpi, Naga, Puerto Princesa, San Jose (Mindoro), Tuguegarao or Virac

₱688 — Manila to Bacolod, Boracay (Caticlan), Cebu, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Kalibo, Roxas, Tacloban or Tagbilaran

₱888 — Manila to Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Calbabata, Davao, Dipolog, General Santos, Ozamiz, Pagadian, Surigao or Zamboanga

INTERNATIONAL SEAT SALE

LiteFARE

₱888 — Manila to Brunei, Kota Kinabalu or Ho Chi Minh

₱1,488 — Manila to Bangkok, Jakarta or Kuala Lumpur

INTERNATIONAL

LiteFARE

₱999 — Cebu to Hong Kong or Macau

₱1,699 — Manila or Cebu to Singapore

₱1,899 — Manila to Guangzhou or Taipei
Cebu to Hong Kong or Singapore

₱2,499 — Manila to Hong Kong or Macau

₱3,499 — Manila to Bangkok

₱3,999 — Manila to Beijing, Busan, Incheon or Shanghai
Cebu to Busan or Incheon

₱5,999 — Manila to Dubai

Limited Seats are one way. Limited availability. Fares are non-refundable. Fares are inclusive of government fees, taxes and fuel surcharges. Flight changes must be made more than 24 hours before scheduled time of departure or time of booking, whichever is later. Passengers may rebook on non-stop seat basis only. Travel is subject to CEB's approved terms and conditions at carriage apply and are available online at http://www.cebupacificair.com/Pages/Terms-and-Conditions.aspx. Call (02) 70-20-888 in Manila, (032) 230-88-88 in Cebu or visit the travel agents near you.

Find us on Facebook
Like/Join www.facebook.com/cebupacificair

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

BDO

Snowstorm in Boston

AS I write this in Boston, Massachusetts, where I am visiting my daughter, his for the North-eastern United States. Winter has overtaken the fall in October!

Millions of motorists are affected, with power lines down and transportation crippled. It's not really in the area, but a blanket of snow is covering the entire northeast.

Truly, Nature can paralyze the most powerful countries in the world. But then, again the effects of human things are no boundaries.

As the unexpected snow falls here, Bangkok the drowned—affected millions of residents, and in Africa a shortage of water looms.

This is the world today. It is clear to me that the planet cannot sustain the present development model. The state of the world's ecology and environment is worsening.

Countries are facing tough and stringent economy measures imposed on them by their governments through the International Monetary Fund. How long will this last? Who should they suffer for something over which they have no control and for which they are not at fault?

I see many more such lasting movements on the horizon, as well as major climate disturbances.

With the many pressures the planet has to face, the continued pollution of carbon dioxide weakens from not only the development model but also the world population of 7 billion.

These pressures will have heavily on the planet and its ecosystems—and all of us will suffer.

Why has there been so close road map on the reduction of greenhouse gases? Why do existing environmentalists go on unabated despite a downturn in the economy? Why does the power of gold still rule the engine of industry? There are questions that need to be answered.

Traditionally the power of gold will ever drive the currencies to succeed, and they are. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has encountered a protocol that will protect greenhouse gases to be controlled by transnational corporations that will ever-use their bottom line.

Blaming and exonerate are subordinates of transnational businesses and will follow the bottom line.

It is the business, as usual attitude that prevails—and will kill the planet's ecology and the world's economy.

—ANTONIO M. CLAPEROLA
president,
Ecological Society of the Philippines
37 Tamarind Road,
Forbes Park, Makati City

'Incomplete encoding'

FOLLOWING MY mother's death 10 years ago, my father filed his claims to SSS benefits. But he first made sure that my mother's former employers had settled the SSS contributions the latter had failed to pay. However, because of the "incomplete encoding" of my mother's contributions, the SSS paid my father P33,000 only, instead of the P330,000 that was due him. My father then requested an adjustment.

However, what was opposed by the SSS assistant vice president, Ms. Rhoanne Vhagen. According to his involuntary reasoning, the benefit paid to my father was erroneous because it was based on the member's employment which was not clearly established or supported. This, in a sense, she contradicted the very decision rendered by the branch head of SSS Cotabato. My father died on May 30, 2011, while awaiting the approval of the requested adjustment.

During the years that my mother (nee Lilia E. Mangubat (SSS No. 07-1130002-1) was employed by Senator M. Sumulong (SSS ID No. 09-1329029-2), she worked as a farm laborer in Barrio Bonbon, Barangay Tiglawigan, Cabo Cos. Based partially on the employers' record which was erroneous in that there were inquiries in order to reconcile it with the record in its possession, my mother's employment in this area Bonbon started in September 1992 until December 1996. However, no SSS contributions were paid on her behalf during this period.

Perhaps, erroneous by his assessment, the secretary-general of the late Senator M. Sumulong belatedly paid her SSS contributions on Aug. 30, 2011. These payments were mistakenly reviewed by the branch head of SSS Cotabato hence the sum of P33,000 was awarded to my father, Rio L. Mangubat.

—MARIELY LAGARO
Barangay Bakhan, Cabo City
Sagay (Negros Occ.)

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bocaletto

Recall move takes next step to unseating Samar gov, vice gov

By Jove Gabonia
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—The provincial office of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in Samar will start verifying the signatures of over 73,000 voters on a recall petition against the province's governor and vice governor.

Melda Cristine Montalbino, provincial elections supervisor, yesterday said the verification process would start on Nov. 8 as ordered by the central office of the Comelec.

The order was signed by Sheriane Nico Cruz, Comelec executive director for operations, on Oct. 28. The verification of signatures will be conducted from Nov. 8 to Nov. 24.

At least 73,889 persons signed the recall petition against Samar Gov. Sharee Ann Tan while 71,250 others signed a separate petition against her brother, Vice Gov. Stephen James Tan.

The recall petition against the Tan siblings was filed on Dec. 7, 2010, by incumbent Borbajo (main petitioner against Governor Tan) and Elvira Lopez (main petitioner against the vice governor) at the provincial Comelec office based in Catbalogan City.

The Tan siblings were accused of being "incompetent" to lead the province. The recall petitioners claimed that the two siblings just follow the orders of their mother, Rep. Milagros Tan, who was former governor suspended for 90 days during her term for graft.

The siblings denied the allegations and maintained that the recall petition was purely political.

Montalbino said municipal election officials would conduct the verification of signatures.

The signatures of those who signed the petition would be compared with their signatures in the Comelec's book of records, voter registration records and the election day computerized voters' list.

For the recall bid to succeed, the petitioners should have validated 45,000 signatures, or about 10 percent of the entire voting population of Samar, Montalbino said.

After the verification is complete, Montalbino said she would submit her report to Executive Director Nico Cruz, who would certify if the required number of signatures had been met.

If verified, Montalbino added, the Comelec would set the schedule of the election and other related activities.

Peping defers to P-Noy, stops toll

CITY OF SAN Fernando—President Aquino turned statesman from the burden of paying toll or service fee on a road owned by his relatives in Tarlac and which was linked to an interchange of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx).

The good news came after the President's uncle, former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., informed Antonio Lagdameo, lawyer of Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI), about the decision to stop collecting "post through-flow" on the 10-kilometer road linking the 6,000-hectare estate.

Pressed for details, Lagdameo's message, which said, "In deference to President Aquino, the implementation of service fee has been deferred."

Lagdameo is an official of HLI, the nearest road manager of the still contested stretch of road that spans Tarlac City and the towns of Concepcion and La Paz. The former Tarlac lawmaker is an elder brother of the President's mother, the late former President Corazon Aquino.

Ligaya enhanced Toll HLI was not involved in the toll collections. Copies of receipts issued when the fees were first imposed in May this year bear the names of Jose Cojuangco and Jose Inc. UCMJ and Rivera International Corporate Investors Inc. (Rivera).

Cojuangco did not answer calls made and text messages sent by the business ending his views on the issue.

Officials of the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) said they were not officially furnished a copy of Cojuangco's decision.

"I have yet to receive a communication from the opposition Greg Peping's (Cojuangco) position not to collect service," said Israel Benamer Cassanova, BCDA president and chief executive officer.

The BCDA built the Luisita interchange on the SCTEx-MacArthur Road because the late Pedro Cojuangco, the oldest in the clan and the former president of HLI, promised that the road could be used by the public for free.

The resumption of the collections of fees was announced through the Department of Public Works and Highways last Miguel Road to Tarlac City on Nov. 2. McCoy's were informed that cars, amounting to P25 for cars, P50 for buses and P100 for trucks, would be collected starting Nov. 7 for "road repairs and maintenance."

The TRB said Cojuangco's (CJO I owner and developer) is stated previously to be valid and subsisting," Julius Corpuz, TRB spokesperson, said by telephone on Friday.

The CJO was issued on June 2 or after five weeks due to the first time temporary on May 17. Corpuz said the CJO has no retroactive date.

He said the CJO drew those applies from BLA, JCH and this.

"They wrote us so TRB to tell us that they're suspending the collection and all courtesy but that is not a waiver of their right to collect toll for the road," Corpuz said. "They consider the CJO invalid."

Corpuz said the TRB would monitor the situation in Subic. its Luisita. Tweet to Orijan, Inquirer Central Luzon

JOY RIDE
Carabao-drawn carts are a favorite attraction in Subang, Pavia, Pampanga. STORY ON PAGE A16

Hostage-taker yields after wounding 2 captives

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A 10-hour hostage drama inside the Pampanga provincial jail here ended at 2 p.m. yesterday, with the suspect yielding to his story for use after wounding two of his three hostages.

Wilfredo Lorilla, 34, surrendered after Edwin Mangahinan, the provincial warden, promised the suspect's older sister who was fetched by policemen from San Carlos City in Pangasinan, and Senior Supt. Edgardo Tinio, Pampanga police director. The police official says he has agreed because he is afraid of her in the military.

Mangahinan sought the help of Sgt. Edwin Jandoleon, a jail personnel who spoke Ilocano, to communicate with Lorilla, a native of Ilocos. Tinio said. Lorilla is held at the provincial jail for attempted murder.

Initial investigation showed that Lorilla, armed with a Hebrew knife, first held Jonathan Miranda at Cell No. 8 at 1 a.m. Police and jail officials could not say how and where Lorilla got the knife.

Lorilla released Miranda, who suffered cuts, when Mangahinan helped chase attack.

Lorilla then took Ronnie Ramirez hostage but Ramirez escaped by jumping from the second floor. Lorilla then seized Bernard Sanchez who he held until he surrendered. Ronnie Ocampo, Inquirer Central Luzon

Ban on yearbooks takes shape in Kidapawan City

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The city council proposed the banning of yearbooks in public and private schools here to reduce parents' expenses.

Vice Mayor Joseph Evangelista said some schools require students to buy yearbooks before graduation.

Evangelista, chair of the city council, said parents are finding it difficult to send their children to school, and spending more for yearbooks would be a difficult financial burden for them.

"Yearbook fees add up to the burden of the parents," he said. The Inquirer learned that in public schools here, yearbooks cost between P1,500 to P2,000. The costs are about double in private schools, or as a result.

Evangelista said instead of buying students to buy yearbooks, schools could put pictures of graduating students on the Internet.

The council, he said, would hold consultation meetings with school officials, parents and students before acting with finality on the proposed ordinance.

Copies of the proposed ordinance have been furnished schools in the city, said the vice mayor. Wilfredo A. Magbanua, Inquirer Mindanao

Fate of 300 Pangasinan trees in road project sealed

By Yolanda Soado
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—The fate of at least 300 trees that are in the way of a road-widening project in the eastern part of Pangasinan appears to have been sealed.

Councilor Jeremias Arcinas, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) chief, said the trees—have endangered the project and the plan to kill at least 300 trees in northern municipalities lobbied by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

While he said he felt sorry for the trees, Bolinao Mayor Roman Golez Jr. said "we cannot do anything about that because this is a major infrastructure project."

Although the Department of Environment and Natural Resources doesn't intend to prevent to kill the trees, the provincial environment and natural resources office and the regional DENR office have endorsed a DPWH request to Environment Secretary Ramon Paje, according to Provincial Environment and Management chief.

Janet Flores, secretary of the Binalonan town council, said a resolution favoring was held on the tree-cutting "and not one of the council members objected."

In Sison, Council Secretary Maria Cristina Garcia said no councilor objected to the plan.

In Pozorrubio, six village chiefs were at a meeting on the tree-cutting but no one opposed the plan, said Council Secretary Aileen Peralta.

The trees include centuries-old acacia and mahogany.

Pangasinan environment chief Co said authorities had decided to cut all the trees. However, Co said, the lumber would be donated to the Department of Education so to turned into chairs and desks.

"We also need materials for chairs and tables in our offices," said Co.

Church folk warned vs priest fleeing US child porn case

By Florante P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

LOLO CITY—Top Church officials here have issued an alert for an Iloilo-born priest who fled state and child pornography charges in the United States.

The archdiocese of Jaro advised members of the clergy to be on the lookout for Fr. Leon Dungog who was born in Iloilo and was ordained in the Diocese of Worcester in Massachusetts.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo issued a circular on Oct. 26 to issue a warning against clergy members cheating with Dungog.

Lagdameo said the Jaro archdiocese adopted the decision of the Diocese of Worcester to prohibit Dungog from assuming priest duties and parish ministry functions as a priest.

Dungog, 55, a native of Barrio Buntog, is over 30 kilometers south of Iloilo City, left Worcester without permission while under supervised release for his arrest on charges of theft and possession of materials on child pornography, according to Worcester Bishop Robert McManus in a letter to Archbishop Socrates Villegas, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Dungog has reportedly been seen to be in some Iloilo towns and has since officiated Mass.

In his letter dated Oct. 13, McManus said Dungog was removed from Worcester pending his trial.

"I removed Father Dungog from active ministry and informed him that he could not even exercise duties or present himself publicly as a priest," McManus said in his letter.

He said that based on a position of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, the "acquisition, possession and distribution of child pornography is a reserved delict (but pertains to the sexual abuse of a minor."

The letter did not provide further details of the accusations against Dungog.

But according to a Sept. 19 report of the Catholic Free Press on the Internet, Dungog, former associate pastor of St. Joseph's Church, was arraigned on Sept. 13 in the Fitchburg District Court on charges of possession of child pornography and witness intimidation over their $250 and other charges.

"He is accused of having pictures on his laptop of girls around the ages of 10 and 11 in various stages of undress. He also is accused of having stolen $40 or $50 on several occasions from the parish office, according to police report," the report said.

It said Dungog was removed from his ministry in Sept. by McManus "after [names] inappropriate] was discovered at the parish."

McManus said in his letter to the CBCP that Dungog "fled" the diocese before his Oct. 28 trial. He left a note saying he was returning to "home" which McManus presumed was the Philippines.

"I bring the matter to your excellency's attention to ensure Father Dungog presents himself to bishops in the archdiocese or dioceses of the Philippines as a priest in good standing. Obviously this is not the case," McManus said.

INQUIRER Visayas

Read-along becomes real-life tree planting

By Hendrix Gil B. Lim
Cebu City

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Kaye Jhanna Inocando has seen thousands of reforestation volunteers in a yearly rush to their mountain barangay of Tabunan in Cebu City since she was 5 years old, but she, a farmer's daughter, had never experienced planting a tree before.

"It's my first time to plant (a tree). I go to school when Manila plants trees," said Kaye, a Grade 5 pupil.

Her mother, Rowena, is a member of the Pangol Bitoggo Cuenca Farmers Association, one of the 13 cooperatives and farmers' groups tasked with raising seedlings and monitoring the growth of trees planted within the Central Cebu Protected Landscape (CCPL), Metro Cebu's source of potable water.

Some of the farmers used to be illegal loggers and charcoal makers. Others have found alternative sources of livelihood in building nurseries and monitoring the growth of the trees apart from growing vegetables and fruit trees.

The communities have been working with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), a foundation that aims to alleviate poverty in four focus areas—environment, education, health and sustainable livelihood and enterprise development.

"It is (our) reality. My child has never planted a tree. This is her first time to plant one although she's not new to tree-planting because she knows I am a farmer and this is my means of living," Rowena said in Tabunan.

It was the same story for most of the 34 children who joined the read-along session organized by PBSP and the Tabunan

FOUR-YEAR-OLD John Ivana gets help from his mother, Salomi, in planting a seedling in Tabunan, Cebu City. The boy later got a special prize from lawyer-environmentalist Gloria Ramos for being the youngest tree planter.

MEMBERS of The Outstanding Students of the Philippines Alumni Community in Central Visayas read and perform the story titled, "The Crying Trees" during the Inquirer Read-Along in Barangay Tabunan, Cebu City.
PHOTOS BY JOEY SALGADO

Conservation Inc. all enthusiastic to plant trees.

After three books—"Dodo: The Heritage of Philippine Fauna," "Meeting Pilak: Elsa (The Little Rainforest)," and "The Crying Trees" were read, Rocio talked about the relationship of trees, animals and water cycle.

"This is a rare experience for us because we saw a good way to educate children about the environment. We started by reading these stories, then Miss Odra's were everything. Jen better understanding and then the children had their practical experience in tree planting," said Marivic Reazol, representative of The Outstanding Students of the Philippines Alumni Community in Central Visayas.

Recent alumni fellow TOSPian and grade school student Reanah Jerred Lapuga of Saint Theresa's College in reading to the children.

Marie Lajoa Largo, PBSP program coordinator of Metro Cebu Poverty Reduction program, said this was the first time for the annual reforestation activity to culminate with a conservation education. Her group plans to do more of this format in the succeeding months ahead.

The children were treated to food and beverage from My Joy/Mama Ess and thought-Lo's Marmi Resort and Spa. Toys and books were given as prizes and giveaways.

To Rowena, as well as with the other mothers, the experience helped her explain to her children what she was doing.

"It is important that as early age children already know how to take care of the environment. By planting trees, they help Tabunan, they help Cebu. What will happen to the (seedlings) if trees are gone," she said.

Express Sale

Conquer the South from Cebu for as low as ₱488!

Selling Period : November 4 to 5, 2011
Travel Period : December 01, 2011 to January 31, 2012

₱488
CEBU to CAGAYAN DE ORO (or v.v.)
CEBU to DAVAO (or v.v.)
CEBU to ILOILO (or v.v.)
CEBU to OZAMIZ (or v.v.)
CEBU to TACLOBAN (or v.v.)
CEBU to ZAMBOANGA (or v.v.)

ZAMBOANGA to DAVAO (or v.v.)
ZAMBOANGA to JOLO (or v.v.)
ZAMBOANGA to MANILA (or v.v.)
ZAMBOANGA to TAWI-TAWI (or v.v.)

₱888
MANILA to COTABATO (or v.v.)
MANILA to GENERAL SANTOS (or v.v.)
MANILA to ZAMBOANGA (or v.v.)

15KG FREE

airphil express

visit www.airphilexpress.com

Watchdog accuses DPWH of bungling road work

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—An anticorruption watchdog has blamed Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson for what it said was the mess that delayed and misplaced road projects heavily damaged by monsoon rains in many areas nationwide.

Ricardo Ramos, head of the Citizens Infrastructure Integrity Watchdog (InfraWatch), on Wednesday said Singson, a retired general, ordered a review of all projects to ensure those were graft-free, leaving regional public works offices to implement these projects on a bad rainy—the onset of the rainy season.

Singson said quality control was swept aside because project engineers are rushing to complete the projects before New Year.

"Singson is bungled it" and his actions must now be investigated by the Commission on Audit and Malacañang, said Ramos, a businessman.

In a series of text messages, Singson said Ramos was mistaken.

Singson said ill he did was endorse "the discipline of bidding projects properly with good programs of work."

"It was a choice between spending without proper procedures and just not wasting the budget for unspending public funds," Singson said. He said in the past projects of such were cut of sync with what was really needed.

He said at least 70 percent of projects that are in the pipeline had to be readjusted "for some valid reason" like those had been completed in river dredging or other projects.

He said he discouraged public overlays on damaged roads and preferred projects to redress roads that include drainage systems.

Ramos, however, said Singson had moved the start of road projects too much that their start coincided with the rainy season, which resulted in

LIKE a monster swallowing its prey, an earth-moving equipment tears down asphalt on Magsaysay Road in Baguio City to rebuild it using concrete. The road repair, delayed because it will start coincided with the rainy season, has brought traffic to a halt, slowing the delivery of fresh vegetables from Benguet to Metro Manila.

more delays and traffic bottlenecks in many areas.

According to Ramos, he personally checked such projects in Baguio and La Trinidad, Benguet.

What he found, according to Ramos, was a pattern of inefficiency and anomalies which was first detected in Tarlac, the home province of President Aquino.

The start of the rainy season and onslaught of storms have further delayed road projects, Ramos said.

Many roads that are being repaired were in good condition before government workers here threw up only to abandon, those when the rains started to come, he said.

"Do you know why the contractors abandoned the roads first even when they were not ready to replace them immediately with concrete?" Ramos said. "So the public will no longer see their original roads," he said.

Some of the projects, he said, all but blocked either roads meant to bypass or alternate routes for motorists.

One of these blocked roads, he said, was the Benguet Road in La Trinidad that motorists are supposed to take to avoid road work on a section of a Baguio road connected to La Trinidad's main highway.

As a result of the road work, travel from La Trinidad to Baguio, which normally takes only 15 minutes, now lasts for 45 minutes or an hour.

The same suffering befell motorists in Ifugao province, where shoddy road repairs have been blamed for accidents and a worsening traffic situation.

"It is to irony like there where you could really think of roads. Any heavy equipment out of clogs. One government is no use, for," complained Governor Jonjon Lacbain, who assumed his Thursday morning flight to Singapore because of heavy traffic. **With a report from Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon**

Fear drives slain journalist's family to keep off his grave

ISIGO CITY—The family of slain journalist Nestor Bedido stayed away from his burial rites on All Souls' Day for fear of their safety in the suspected masterminds in his murder are still at large.

"We wanted to be with him because we really missed him, but we cannot do anything because our security because the suspects in his," said Mandeo, the slain journalist's son.

He said instead of going to the cemetery, the family stayed inside their safe house, lighted candles there and offered prayers.

"Maybe we could finally relax his souls when the suspects are in jail already," Mandeo said.

Bedido, a consultant for the

FAMILY members of slain radio broadcaster Nestor Bedido, Jr. pray at the grave of the journalist in Isigo City on All Souls' Day. Bedido's family stayed away from the burial rites for fear of their safety as the suspected masterminds in the killing are still at large.

Manila-based Bombo Radyo, was shot dead at the corner of Rizal and Quezon avenues here on June 19 but died on the way to the provincial hospital.

A few months later, Victorio Mendoza-en, accused the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and admitted to the murder.

Mendoza implicated Governor del Sur Gov. Douglas Cagas and Mayor Vicente Fernandez as masterminds. He has since been placed under the government's witness protection program.

Both officials denied involvement in the killing.

The Bedidos family has repeatedly urged the Department of Justice (DOJ) to file murder charges against Cagas and Fernandez, one a politician of Mandeo-en's confession.

Mandeo said the filing of the charges could hasten the issuance of warrants of arrest against the suspected masterminds.

In September, the DOJ conducted preliminary hearings but has yet to come up with a resolution. Orlando Diong Jr., Quirino Mendoza

Man confesses to killing HK man in April; body exhumed

By Jaci Arriola
Inquirer Visayas

MAASIN CITY—The body of a Hong Kong national who has been dead since April was exhumed yesterday shortly before police took custody of the man who confessed to killing the victim.

The remains of Fung Chi Kwok, 63, were dug from a shallow grave in Barangay Tagnipa, Maasin. Maasin Barong Fung, the woman's wife, identified the remains.

Maasin, 31, said her husband, said to be a classmate of Hong Kong superstar Jackie Chan, was killed by beyond because of a dispute over Maasin Sin-as partner. Before she met Fung and with whom Maasin maintained a relationship unknown to Fung.

Police said robbery could be the motive for killing Fung since the Hong Kong national was believed to be armed with cash when he arrived in Maasin on April 8, which was also the day he was killed.

Sheriff Alfer Fung's body was exhumed, police took Maasin, 30, into custody. Maasin-ang police said, confessed to killing part to killing Fung and pointed to a nearby Barlin Peninsula as the mastermind.

Police quoted Maasinang as saying he and Pedro buried Fung in a hilly area in Barangay Libloc, about 1 km from the Tagnipa.

Maasinang told the inspectors it was Pedro who shot Fung. "I was not the brain of the crime," Maasinang said. Maasin said she married Fung in 2009 but denied all her own husband about her relationship with Maasinang, which started in 2004.

Fung had gone to Maasin twice and he third visit on April 8 was his last. Maasin said that was also the last time she talked to Fung by phone.

When Fung went missing after April 8, Maasin said she tried to call him up but they was no answer.

"I knew my husband was killed on his arrival on April 8," Maasin told the inspectors.

Police said Fung had money with him to invest on an apartment and jewelry business.

Maasin said she decided to report the killing to police seven months after the crime to get back at Maasinang with whom she's been fighting after Fung's killing.

Rice terraces vulnerable to landslides, says geologist

BAGUIO CITY—Government needs to address monsoon-triggered landslides that destroyed much of the rice terraces in Ifugao, but a government geologist said the solution must not lead to further destruction of the 2,000-year-old relic.

Boy Apil, chief geologist of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Cordillera office, said the National Geological Map has revealed the inherent susceptibility of the terraces to landslides due to the composition of the mountain soils on which the terraces have been carved in some areas.

Apil said the angle of the terrace slopes and the degree of water seepage discharged by water drains suggest that landslides would have occurred along the rice terrace belts.

"Therefore, not all the terrace erosions documented from this year are the only ones we have seen in recent," Apil said on Tuesday.

Ifugao Rep. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. is launching next week a new bill to save the Terraces, saying that the Ifugao province, in the light of the rapid urbanization of rice terraces being brought about by the series of delays in the towns of Mayoyao, Hungduan, Banaue and Batwan, all in Ifugao.

Baguilat said the province needs to raise more than P500 million to restore the terraces and revive the economy for 2,000 Ifugaos there.

The Ifugao government had submitted the responsibility of preserving the terraces after Malacañang downgraded and then abolished a national agency overseeing their preservation. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Negros bids to become PH 'sheep capital'

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BAGUIO CITY—Negros Occidental is on its way to becoming the sheep capital of the Philippines.

The provincial government is importing 6,000 to 7,000 sheep from Australia for breeding, said Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr.

Marañon and provincial veterinarian Bonnie Dacuan left for Broome in Western Australia on Oct. 31 to purchase P70 million worth of cattle and sheep for Negros Occidental.

Initially, they had planned to buy 1,130 cattle and 2,400 sheep.

When they arrived in Broome, only 200 cattle were available and were not of good quality. They then decided to buy only sheep, the governor said.

"We will amend our letter of credit from buying cattle and sheep to buying all sheep," he said in an interview after returning from Australia.

Sheep of similar kind cost P500,000 each in the Philippines. But those purchased in Australia will have a landed cost of about P1,2,000 each for females and P14,000 for males, Marañon said.

Most of the sheep will be propagated at the provincial government breeding farm in Marcelo town. Some of the sheep would be sold to qualified breeders.

"Sheep give birth every five months so our lands and, if lucky, they may have twins," Marañon said, adding that the meat of the type of sheep that the province was buying is delicious to delicacies.

Farmers still able to sell storm-damaged palay

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Stocks of storm-damaged palay in Central Luzon have been unloaded to resellers.

But farmers said by the National Food Authority (NFA) system in Bulacan and Tarlac at least 5,000 out of 200,000 bags of palay that were salvaged from farms ravaged by Typhoon "Pedring" and "Quiel" [illegible].

Some farmers decided to sell the rest of their stocks to private traders who bought a kilogram of palay at P13 to P17.50, according to NFA Central Luzon chief Antonio de Guzman.

In contrast, the NFA in Nueva Ecija is buying at P11.50 and P7 per kilo, depending on the extent of damage to the stock.

De Guzman said the NFA was unable to match the buying prices offered by private traders because it would result in the preparation of an order agency task force.

"We do understand the farmers. Who will refer the NFA if there prices when private traders buy at higher prices. Does our support prices only?" De Guzman said in a telephone interview.

In the local market, typhoon damaged palay is referred to as "patoldo" because most were sheer grains. Those stocks survived Pedring, which battered the region starting Sept. 26, and Quiel, which dumped more rains on Oct. 1.

Palay sold to the NFA experienced 1000 percent of the stocks that the agency intended to buy, as announced by NFA Central Luzon assistant regional director Gerry Inquierdo on Oct. 27.

The NFA allocated 900 million to buy the 200,000 bags of palay (each bag weighs 50 kilograms), but inspectors could decide with 50 percent from any would not be purchased.

De Guzman said the NFA has been buying damaged grains to help farmers recover their capital.

He allayed fears of a rice shortage due to the typhoons, by declaring that the NFA has piled up 1.5 million bags of grains and 1.49 million bags of palay for milling. Those stocks are expected to last for 30 days.

"The NFA's purchases are convincing. We won't run short of stocks," De Guzman said.

As of 2011, NFA bought from rural farmers 197,000 bags of rice, which represented 20 percent of this year's target.

Last month, about 19,000 bags of unrelated palay were distributed to farmers in Central Luzon, according to Andrew Villacorta, Central Luzon director of the Department of Agriculture.

At least 50,000 bags are still the bad in seed laboratories and are due for distribution in the next few weeks.

Seed subsidy in the region has amounted to P1.26 million. The DA target is more than 9000 million, Villacorta said.

Whereas Region's rice production was down by 69 percent, according to the Philippine Statistics Agency 2010, citing a report from provincial agriculturist in twelve towns.

The PIA said the provincial loss P66,922.6 rice grains is reported farmers to the typhoons. At P12 per kg, the lost crops would have been worth P3.63 billion. **Jennette Gozum, Inquirer Central Luzon**

Binay tells SEA Games athletes: Go for gold

MAKATI MAYOR Jejomar Binay last night exhorted some 300 athletes to give their best shot as they gear up for the Indonesia Southeast Asian Games.

"Come gold. Dalay ito sa atleta, ano ang sabihin ng mayor sa kanila? Ang sabi niya, pag nanalo sila ng gold, dalawa ang gantimpala nila. Una, isang gulfstream jet ng Philippine Air Force. Ang pangalawa, isang condominium unit sa Makati," Binay told the athletes, who are training in preparation for the biennial regional meet, during a gathering held at the Philippine Sports Commission headquarters in Pasig City. The mayor took off his shirt to show the athletes his physique. He said he was in shape because he worked out every day. He also urged the athletes to train hard. —Nestor Corrales

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa
Associate Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

Roach ignores Marquez drug rumors

By Francis T. J. Ochoa

HELLYWOOD.....It's a tale of two opponents Usain Bolt's owning up for Mexico Pacquiao. The other? You wonder if he'll even end up facing the Filipino superstar.

On Thursday, Juan Manuel Marquez got some support from trainer Freddie Roach while Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s camp got dinged by promoter Bob Arum.

Arum steamed reports coming out of Team Mayweather that a May fight date has been reserved for the biggest fight possible, a hint that the scrutinized American has finally agreed to step in the ring against Pacquiao.

"Some will bolt ...," said Arum.

"They're just trying to take attention away from Manny," added the Top Rank chief.

Attempts to forge a Pacquiao-Mayweather duel, arguably the biggest match that could be staged in the sport, had collapsed many years, easily due to disputes over drug-testing protocols—despite the fighters being poached to earn at least $50 million each.

Mayweather has customarily bolted for Olympic-style drug tests, while Pacquiao, refusing to be bullied into such a condition, said he is willing to undergo tests based on already established boxing norms.

Mayweather is facing blockbuster libel by Pacquiao over his claim that the reigning ground-for-ground king has used performance-enhancing drugs.

Marquez is also faced with the same accusation of his association with Angel Hernandez, who used to work for controversial Mexican founder Victor Conte, who spun stories on Nandrolone Decanoate 30's conditioning stack.

Marquez has denied the accusation, and Roach just finding credence to those claims.

"A lot of people want to point fingers and say he [Marquez] is doing bad things," said Roach. "But I'm not going to do that because I'm not even here being close to me. It looks like he's working hard and that's what he's supposed to do in the gyms.

"My guys work hard and that's why they get good results."

Tabuena hangs on to third with 71 in Taiwan Masters

DAFFI—Juan Jose Tabuena Miguel Tabuena cooled off with a 1-under par 71 and dipped into a tie for third place halfway through the $600,000 Mercuries Taiwan Masters on Friday.

PBA hit opening 65 for 17-year-old Filipino, the tournament's youngest player, posted a 36-hole total of 139 like Asian Elvren Pyun, who shot a 68 at the Taiwan Golf and Country Club.

The two stood six shots behind Lu Wei-chih of Chinese Taipei, who posted a second straight 66, and one stroke off former Asian Tour No. 1 Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand, who shot a 68 at 137.

Angelo Que, the top Filipino on the Asian Order of Merit in No. 26, missed into a three-way tie for 11th after firing a 71 for 143.

Jovie Ragasajo was a stroke off at 146 after a second 72 followed by Antonio Lascuña (73) at 145 and Elmer Salvador (73) and Antonio Hmedmed (75) at 146. Mars Pamo missed the cut at 146 by one stroke with rounds of 75-74. —Aaron Bue Abero

Manny to go for early KO this time

By Francis T. J. Ochoa

HOLLYWOOD.....Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant made out of his love tour Thursday by visiting the Wild Card Gym to watch Manny Pacquiao prepare for his third bout against Juan Manuel Marquez on Nov. 12 in Las Vegas.

That preparations included a confidential on the game plan, Bert Marquez only had seven letters: Knockout.

Bryant, idled due to the ongoing NBA lockout, stayed for close to an hour, praising his photos with Pacquiao and his mom and their kissing after the Filipino ring legend had completed seven rounds of sparring with three different fighters.

Bryant's visit, Roach said, was passed-ranged by the basketball superstar's swing.

"He's a nice guy," Roach said. "It's nice that he dropped by. We talked a little bit. I enjoyed meeting him.

"He didn't get a chance to talk to Manny that much because the training was about to start when he arrived," added Roach.

Pacquiao also did six rounds at mitts after sparring a rare day off Wednesday.

"It's my 10-or-11 years with Manny, this was just the second time that he took the day off," Roach said. "He's been working very hard for this fight. I felt the rest was needed."

Pacquiao is taking his fight against by Mexican assassin personally, and Roach said this has been the hardest he's seen Manny or in camp.

"I know I say this a lot but we're having the best camp ever," said Roach. "This is the most motivated I've ever seen him.

"The entire camp, he's had an extra push, extra motivation," said the trademainer trainer. "He's really pissed at this guy."

Even by someone who has seen literally almost all he's seen during training, Roach said there's a palpable edge in the Pacman's training as it, prompting him to predict that the fight we all had the distance.

Roach said Pacquiao will be different here, the guy who curiously sweated his last two fights in the final rounds.

"We talked about that and I said, Manny, if you get a jump on this guy in the first round, you can knock him out in one round," Roach said. "And he said, 'You know Marquez is a smart guy and he might walk us into something.'

"Let's be smarter and we'll take him out when he's ready to go," Roach quoted Pacquiao as saying.

"And I told him, 'We'll go that way but if you beat him in the first round, don't let up on him all night'" Roach said.

"And he smiled at me and said, 'Oh, I'm not here to take it easy,'" Roach said. "It won't be like his last two fights when he's going to take it easy on his opponents.

"I think he'll finish this one [off]."

LAKERS star Kobe Bryant (left) watches recently Thursday at the Wild Card Gym as Pacquiao works the mitts with Roach.

MITTS. Manny Pacquiao's Filipino pad holders as Kobe Bryant (left) looks on after a session at the Wild Card Gym in Hollywood, California. The star's bullpen reportedly stashed out after one of its fights was left open as he trained at the Wild Card Gym.

Duel of champs: Fiery Amit upends Ouschan

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FILIPINO ace Jeffrich Amit outplayed Austrian Jasmin Ouschan, 6-2, in a duel between past and reigning champions yesterday to reach the top 16 of the 2015 Toto Global Women's 10-ball Championship at Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas.

The 30-year-old Amit, the event's inaugural champion in 2009 who is gunning up for the coming Southeast Asian Games, eased to a 3-1 lead before winning the 6-ball in the seventh rack to allow her rowdy blonde rival back to the table.

But Ouschan also blundered in the eighth rack and lost the SEA Games defending champ in 6-ball and 9-ball singles, swapped up her fourth win in the tournament.

"It's a good thing I had many opponents at the table," Amit, who has dued off pounds after competing in recent fun runs, said in Filipino.

"I would want to still face Austrian in the finals as it will be the battle of the 2009 and 2010 champions."

Amit, who played third here last year, topped her group with a 4-1 record. She lost to American Monica Webb, 3-6, late Thursday, but still scored enough rack points to land the top-ranked bracket.

Ouschan claimed the opening rack, but Amit took the next three to get on the ball.

Amit, bunched among the favorites in the event, piled up three runs in a row as the experience of Ouschan (4-2), 3-M, Eric Rosario (4-2), Ronnie Alcano (4-2) of Cebu (4-4) and Li Wei of Chinese Taipei (4-4), before leaving to Webb.

"After that good run there I just had the feel around against Robbin Amit," said Ouschan on Twitter. "She played really well."

Ouschan went on to crush Webb, 6-1, and advance to the quarterfinals.

The other Filipino young aces in the event, Iris Ranola, bowed to Rosario-Rosario Mendoza, 6-4, late in the day.

Rosario's chances of moving to the next round now depends on the outcome of late matches in her group.

"We are using this event to gain experience for the SEA Games," said Amit.

The winner of the event will earn $20,000, while the runner-up gets $10,000. Third and fourth places get $5,000 each.

FIRST DOWNHILL: Jasmin Ouschan

Burlington cage tourney finals

GAME 01 (...) as Pangasinan and Bataan collide today in the Burlington 47-and-above basketball tournament at the Philsports Arena in Pasig. Bataan leads the series 2-0. Also on the line is the Burlington Jr. Tournament championship. Game 01 starts at 2 p.m.

Gamerella beat Cogan Sun for Basketball Club, 111-92, but needs to top its runner-up finish in the previous conference of the championship. Jan Dalao will carry the scoring load with 25 points after a 100-94 win over Pasig Sports Club in the second-round finals. Also on the line is the championship flight in the Girls' Baby Stars, Junior Babes and Junior Stars division. Game 01 starts at 2 p.m. for the Girls' Baby Stars, featuring the defending champion Pasig Sports Club and Southern square off for the 10-and-under title.

Four NL-CL champions join battle for Sweet 16 slot

FOUR champion teams will dispute a Sweet 16 slot when the North Central Luzon regional championship of the Philippine Collegiate Champions League (PCCL) kicks off this Monday in Virgan City.

The University of Northern Philippines, champion of the Ilocos Collegiate Universities Athletic Association, leads the five-city, round-robin duel also featuring the University of Pangasinan, La Union College of Nursing Arts and Sciences and University of Pangasinan.

The Clarifiers first ruled the Baguio-Benguet Educational Athletic League. The La Union squad topped the Student Body Organization Athletic Association and the Pangasinan team dominated the Ilocandia and Universities and Colleges Athletic Association of Pangasinan.

Four other regional qualifying tournaments are lined up this month in Metro Manila, South Luzon, Bicol-Mimaropa and the Visayas.

Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation, Inc. (Csaf) finalist University of Cebu and Southwestern University recently advanced to the Sweet 16 along with UNAP semifinalists Far Eastern University, Adamson and University of Santo Tomas, and the NCAA's Final Four, San Sebastian, Letran and host Perpetual University.

Adelfo Or Shino's Jeff Chan (right) loses possession as he challenges the defense of Sharptone.com's James Sena in last night's game.

E-Painters rout Clickers

Bolts survive Gin Kings

By Jose Mariano

COACH Yeng Guiao didn't regret sitting out most of Rain Or Shine's reserve runs against that solidified its hold of the lead in the PBA Philippine Cup last night.

Guiao was forced late in the second quarter but it mostly fired up Rain Or Shine to a 96-75 win of the Sharptone.com Clickers at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Jeff Chan found himself in a zone, sinking 17 of his career-high 28 points in a third-quarter breakaway that set up the E-Painters to a third straight 10-or-more victory on a 6-1 card.

After coaching the Aladin Aces for 36 points and the Blenders Bolts by 46, Franz de Shino wound up with an average winning margin of 15.5 points in his last three games.

"We're looking to contend in the cup for but we didn't expect to be No. 1," said Guiao, who was thrown out for the second time in three games.

With 5:12 remaining in the second period and the E-Painters ahead, 56-34, Guiao was ejected after nudging Ogie Menor at the sidelines when the Sharptone forward taunted the RED bench following a three-pointer.

Menor, penalized for unsportsmanlike behavior and teaming Jo Ming players on Penberg, also ejected ejection despite the technical.

Guiao was also thrown out against the two other getting a pair of technicals.

Meralco bounced back from a 44-point defeat against Rain Or Shine and held off Claredon's late charge for a 93-87 win in the other game.

Asylee Bolts found her the Smelly with 43 seconds left, running the Gin Kings' chance to pull off a coveted after coming back from six points, 87-80, in the final minutes.

The Bolts notched their fifth win against

Image Source: The Inquirer

SEA Games 4th place 'good enough'

By Mhang R. Castillo

JAKARTA—Rising Filipino core of the country's best setting finish of runner in the 26th Southeast Asian Games, is realistic about the Filipinos' seventh distance to the Beijing meet.

With a delegation that pales in comparison to the contingents that will represent Thailand and host Indonesia, Hingpit's assistant of success is practical. As impressive as in the fifth, place finish in Last four years ago.

Magat declined to say what the 5-12-strong Philippine delegation's gold-medal target load is, but conceded that a performance equivalent to fourth-place overall would be "successful enough."

"We would of course like to aim high, but we need to keep things realistic," he told the Inquirer over dinner Thursday night.

Magat and women's Julius Caesario will be the acting interim chiefs in the absence of the ailing Sim Ho Tet of course Israel.

"A good measure of our success here would be the number of gold we snatched today," the official said. "We won 39 gold medals in Vientiane playing in just 25 events. So we would need to improve on that and, of course, climb in the overall standings."

Thailand boasts of no official delegation of more than 2,000, with close to half of that athletes, while Indonesia, which is bidding to score the overall title here, banks on back thumpers Thais, is fielding 1,200 athletes.

The Thais are leaving no stone unturned. One official has reportedly sought accreditation for about 2,000 more who will act as "cheerleaders" in the Games.

Magat is optimistic of Irmis' chances, though, with the veterans Cecil Mercado again leading the squad.

Mercado, who is seeking to win a second straight men's singles gold—and third in the last four editions of the Games—answered yet another call for flag and country. Magat believes, however, that this would be the first Filipino Asiatic act but trial for the country.

"Cecil loves the Philippines so much," said the 39-year-old Magat, secretary general of the Philippine Tennis Association for the last 17 years. "I want to do. He has all the love for the country in his cook.

"But Cecil also has to look after his future. He's not getting any younger. He's 33 now, I think, and yet, we think that he is still an contender in the SEA Games. He have offered him an attractive package, but I think he will decline it."

Mercado, who once conquered former World No. 1 Andre Agassi in a tournament in San Jose, California, receives compensation for his services for the country in international meets like this one and in the Davis Cup.

And though Magat said that the package offer was substantial, it cannot compare to the one Mercado receives for being the batting partner of Sharapova during tournamentic according to Magat.

The Philippine side, would only offer him less than half of that, he added.

HAPPY Ges Jeqd Isak Pipa Hsong Thirds (5) of Vietnam on Thursday's 2-1 defeat awarded by the Filipinos at the SEA Games.

Travel-weary Azkals come to grief against superior Viets

By Mhang R. Castillo

JAKARTA—Blame it on fatigue.

Long plane rides did the Philippine Under-23 Azkals in against Vietnam Thursday at the start of the 26th Southeast Asian Games football section.

The Azkals failed to protect a 1-0 first half edge and the Vietnamese rampaged the rest of the way for a 4-1 win.

Team manager Dan Palami took the loss with a grain of salt, saying it is a perennial problem for the Azkals whose players come mostly from overseas.

"We have to understand that some of them flew straight from Europe just to play here," Palami said late Thursday after their loss. "Our team is unstable early in tournaments. But his sure they will come around."

Four of the squad's starters—goalkeeper Roland Muller, midfielders Mariano Ule and Jeffrey Christiaens, and defender Carlos de Murga—arrived here less than a day before the match.

The rest of the team came from a marathon training camp in Japan. They returned to the Philippines on Oct. 31, a day before taking a seven-hour connecting flight from Manila to Singapore to join Indonesia capital.

"Pagod na sila (they were tired) in the second half and couldn't keep up with the pressure," Palami explained. "Our key players started them limits. But they will be better in the next games."

Given the result, the Philippines now has four "fighter" assignments in its group schedule, although it needs to win three all to advance to the Final Four.

The Azkals took Friday morning off but after a hour lunch, they plunged back into training to the afternoon to prepare for the match against Timor Leste on Monday.

"We will just have to work day-to-day and improve," German coach Michael Weiss said. "The players were tired and couldn't follow the game plan fully. We need to work hard to score a victory."

Milo Marathon Davao elims gets going tomorrow

NATIONAL Milo Marathon hopefuls will have one last chance to stake the December finals when the country's longest running foot race holds its last 21K elimination leg tomorrow in Davao City.

Organizers placed the total number of registered runners at 12,456, including those in the 21K, 10K, 5K and 3K categories.

Among the southbound runners are last year's Davao leg winner Ester Lapitz, 2010 National Finals 10K player Anthony Nerza and Cynthia Jara, who placed 7th in last year's finals.

The race will see tougher competition as two-time champion Gerard Tumaliuan of Cebu, Cyprian de Dios and Cebu contender Jo Emran to vie for the winner's purse of P 10,000 and slots in the National Finals.

Just like the previous legs, runners finishing within the cutoff times of 1 :15:00 for men and 1:33:00 for women will earn all-expense paid trips to the Manila finals.

Race organizer Kenneth Sia expressed elation over the eight-edition festival which has exceeded expectations. He said the Davao race has the support of the local government, the Davao City Police Office and the Traffic Management Center.

WAKESKATING season host JV Barranco with members of the PH team (from left) Mark Griffin, Samantha Bermudez and Carlo dela Torre.

Asian wakeboard tilt begins

THE former Daniel Great heads the invasion in the Hard and final stop of the 2011 Stoked Inc./Sip Cool Asian Wake Park Tour today at the Lago de Oro resort in Cabanatuan, Batangas.

The prospect to finally have a solid chance to take the overall title for wakeskater and wakeboard PH's year, said Garan, a 23-year-old Sip Cool rider.

"I will do everything I can to win. Its disheartening ending in all the people back home in Bangkok who are dealing with the unfortunate floods."

Garan still be up against some of Asia's best, including Singapore's Aris Bennet-Lott, South Korea's Kim Dong-Il and Thailand's Aye Tanasak.

The Filipino riders are also expecting a solid run between Mark Griffin, Carlo Dela Torre, Robert Gaerlit and top female Bermudez Bermudez.

JV Barranco, chair of the Waterski and Wakeboarding Association of the Philippines, said the event is part of the Philippine board's buildup for the Southeast Asian Games this month. Asiarides 46 Dipo

Orcollo-Souquet kicks off Face Off Series today

THE highly anticipated match between Filipino No. 1 Dennis Orcollo and German ace Ralf Souquet dubbed as Philippine Pigeon Billiards (PBI) Face Off Series gets under way today at the Pagoda Airport Casino in Pasay City.

"It's anybody's game," said Orcollo, top contender of Pagoda Promotions and the reigning World 8-Ball champion, of the 9-ball match.

The former Bohemian from Isidro, Surigao del Sur, said the race to 9, 13-ball duel is too close to tell since it will be a winner's break-off rule.

Sports Betting of Mega Sports World has installed thrusts the slight favorite at minus-2.5 in against Souquet's plus-2.5 as of yesterday.

Under this setup, a $1 bet on Orcollo will win $1.40 while the same wager on Souquet will earn $2.50.

Hosted by Mega Sports World and Pagoda Promotions, the Face Off Series is a 10-leg tournament that will run from November 5 to December 17 at the Pagoda Airport Casino in Pasay City.

ORCOLLO

SOUQUET

The winner will get $5,000 while the loser will settle for $2,500.

Souquet, who gunned in yesterday's Scoop Forum at Ramayana Suites Resort, downed Orcollo, 8-3, during the World Pool Masters finals last September in Manila.

"It's going to be a tough fight," said Souquet who was accompanied by BILLIARD Corp. CEO and managing director Aurelio "Bell" de Leon at the Sheraton.

Get SOCIAL

NETPHONE EDITION

Samsung GALAXY *y*
Young

FREE at

PLAN 349

with UNLI SOCIAL + UNLI TEXT

Prepaid ₱4990*

The Netphone Experience now more affordable.

NETPHONE EDITION

SMART

Aplus METRO

4,000 families in QC set to be relocated

By John Mark Kamlian

THE QUEZON City government has identified over 4,000 poor families living near waterways as their priority for relocation next year.

The relocation will also include those in dispute living near dangerous roads and are in peril of being hit by vehicles.

Of the total 4,258 informal settler families, 2,225 are located near creeks and waterways, according to urban poor affairs officer Ahmed Aquino.

Some 2,000 poor families living on road rights-of-ways and are vulnerable to being hit by vehicles will be given priority in the relocation program next year.

The relocation is one of the thrusts of Mayor Herbert Bautista, who is eyeing the transfer of informal settlers living in danger areas like sidewalks, roadways, waterways, under transmission lines and sewer pipelines.

This is with the coastal signing of an ordinance on a 0.05 percent socialized housing tax rebate is supposed to generate funds for socialized housing projects.

"The problem of poverty and informal settlements in Quezon City is huge. But, we can help make this challenge manageable through the pathways of collaboration and teamwork among ourselves," Bautista said.

Transfer sites

The families will be relocated at Lots 4, Sunshine-A-2 in Barangay San Isidro in Rodriguez, Rizal; SE Sunshine B-C in Rodriguez, Rizal, and Sunnyville Phase 5 at Barangay Gayo-Gayo in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

The urban poor affairs office said it has transferred around 1,387 indigent families in the three resettlement sites as designated by the National Housing Authority.

The city government said it is offering priority in the relocation program to 800 underprivileged families at the Culiat-ang Creek at Barangay Bagong Silangan, which has been the cause of flooding during heavy rain.

Other areas up for relocation are San Juan River in Barangay Bungang Lupa, Tinsan in Barangay Santa Cruz, Niugan in Barangay Talipapa, Lagarian Creek in Barangay Obrero;

Bramjayan Creek in Barangay Matandang, Mina Creek in Barangay Bahay Toro, Road 5 Creek in Brgy. 8, Aramco Creek in Barangay Sauyo, Creekside in Barangay E. Rodriguez; Dario Creek in Barangay Bahay Toro, Dilliman Creek in Barangay Roxas and San Fullabar Creek in Barangay North Fairview.

The informal settler families occupying road right-of-ways to be relocated are along: Bill Road, Barangay Central; Lucio Tan Street, Barangay Tandang; Liwayway and Pook dela Paz Streets, Barangay Old Balara; Herald cercles inland, Barangay Pasong; Bernardo Path in Barangay Kamuning, NIA Road near the Postal Office in Barangay Pinyahan; Antonio Avenue, Barangay Matandang; Along San Domingo and Maralun Streets, Barangay Matandang and San Domingo Street of Barangay Mariana, will also be included in the priority list.

Greed spoils teens' 'good' burglary job

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FOUR young men almost pulled a perfect robbery job had greed not got into them.

Two of them are now in the custody of the Manila Police District after their victim, Jesse Mar Caballero, recognized them and filed a complaint with the police.

Based on the complaint, the two suspects, identified as Oliver Xavier Lacanlet, 15, and his cousin Marvin Sico Lacanlet, 20, barged into Caballero's home at 2320 Road 2 Zafiro Street in San Andres Bukid on All Saints' Day between 2 and 4 a.m.

Police said Caballero, who is actually the suspects' neighbor, was then sound asleep at his room in the second floor. Investigators observed that the condominium unit was ransacked and jewelry worth around P90,000 and some of the victim's credit cards and cash about to leave when they spotted Caballero's mobile phone placed directly above his head.

They apparently thought they could add the phone, worth around P27,000, to their loot. But when they took it, Caballero was roused from sleep.

However, she pretended to be still asleep just got to recognize the two suspects as her neighbors. She then waited for the two to leave her house, and summoned three persons-in-authority-nearby.

After the group left, Caballero reported the theft to barangay officials which resulted in the arrest of the Lacanlet cousins on Wednesday night. The suspects are reportedly members of the Bahala Na Gang. They two other robbery suspects at large and the stolen valuables worth an estimated P1,20,000 was not recovered.

The duo was turned over to the custody of the Manila Police District (MPD) theft and robbery section who filed a robbery charge against them before the city prosecutor's office.

Operatives of the police unit are conducting follow-up operations for the identities and arrest of the two other suspects in the burglary as well as the possible recovery of the stolen items.

Peace Corps volunteers meet at MOA, share fond memories

By Nika Calleja

RIZAL Grand, a 22-year-old US Peace Corps volunteer, would occasionally answers her host family in Santa Rita with "mahirap ko ka" (I forgot)" when dazed to translate English words to Tagalog.

Ironically, it had become her most unforgettable Tagalog phrase.

In her stay in the country for over a year, she had learned to speak and comprehend the Kapampangan while teaching English to high school students at the Zenaguan National High School in Santa Rita.

"I try to speak Tagalog every day. It's hard because I can easily learn one word but I would also easily forget it," said Grand chuckling from English to Filipino. She added it was through the supervision of Tagalog teachers that she was able to remember common phrases and words.

She said her interest had on the simple fact the language and life about the Philippine culture. "I'm learning a lot. My students love to teach me new words, definitions, one time, we were waiting for a press conference to start, they taught me expressions in the classic like 'Ayan tumatakbo ok,'" she said.

A graduate psychology of the University of Illinois-Urbana, Grand said since then the chance to help other people, her volunteering experience enabled her to learn about cultures other than her own. It was a supreme effort for her to speak Filipino as she said it was the only way to bridge the communication gap.

Common experience

This was a common experience among other volunteers who attended the 50th founding anniversary event of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City on Friday. Retired livelihood and environmental projects of the Peace Corps were exhibited at the Music Hall of the SM Mall of Asia.

Charles Bevins, director for projects, grantmaking and training of the US Peace Corps, said volunteers get three months of intensive training before they embark on their respective assignments, one of the lessons was language.

"During the training, they live with Filipino families and they were taught Tagalog, Ilocano, Cebuano, and Bicolno," he said.

He said some were able to the learn the language for three months but others managed to learn little by little in the entire 27 months of volunteering service.

MAMASTER a Ilocano mercantile native hugs during the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Peace Corps observance of 50 years of partnership with the Philippines at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Eleanor Bagtas, a volunteer in Lagawe, Ifugao, would speak less than two words after four months on the Peace Corps.

"Bisit (A BOL)," she said when asked if she can speak Ilocano. "Cultural exchange is so big here. It's a wonderful experience. I love sharing them about my Mexican-American culture," she said.

She said she was organizing a baby shower for her Filipino counterpart in Ifugao who, according to her, had not known what baby shower is.

"It would be the first baby shower in there," she quipped.

Helping communities

Since its creation in 1961 by US President John F. Kennedy, Peace Corps volunteers have been working with Filipino communities on several areas including environment, education, appropriate technology, health and nutrition, education, fisheries and agroforestry.

US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. said that with the 5,000 volunteers send to the Philippines since 1961, the American government is thinking "to send persons to preserve our people."

"Peace Corps volunteers share the hope of peace through the gift of friendship and cultural understanding. They lead demonstrated the success of development can be achieved from the grass roots level," Thomas said during the anniversary event.

Bevins said Thomas' statement was supported by success stories in the communities.

"There is this project in Ifugao, Sagpon Occidental, where women were taught to make bags out of plastics. So many of those women, it's the first time they have been able to earn income. They take care of their families, their homes. But there was no support to any before to earn income." Bevins said.

He recalled the time when a woman in the community cried to the volunteers after she earned extra money from the bags and pay her school fees of her children.

"That is life-changing for her and for her children," he said.

Education secretary Armin Luistro and Health Secretary Enrique Ona attended the event.

"I hope that the experience in the past 50 years allowed the 5,000 volunteers to enrich the US with many more of those living testimonies about our country," Luistro said.

Offices warned: Use clear glass on windows to prevent robbery

By Macy C. Cavajal

USE CLEAR glass on your office windows and make sure people outside could see what's going on inside your establishment, police station commander said.

Senior Supt. Marcelino Pedroso, Quezon City Police District Station 4 head made this advice following a robbery at a travel agency located in a crowded area in Novaliches on Thursday afternoon.

He said no one noticed when four robbers struck at Manjumoco Travel and Tour Agency at the corner of Quirino 4a and Tirad Luz towers at around 2:30 p.m.

The suspects, who posed as customers, took off with the agency's P50,000 duty stake and three cell phones of the employees.

Gina Bituin Jones, operations manager of the travel agency, said the suspects were armed with high-powered firearms.

Pedroso said no one noticed the robbery despite the presence of a lot of people outside the office because its windows were heavily tinted and cluttered with brochures, posters.

He added the travel agency also had no security guard and closed circuit television (CCTV) camera which, he said, had been required by the city as part of its evasive measures.

Pedroso explained that covering or using dark shades for glass windows also attracts robbers.

862 new police recruits

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office has sworn in 862 duty 9562 new police recruits in a simple oath-taking ceremony at the NCRPO headquarters in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City.

NCRPO chief Dir. Alan Purisima administered the oath to the new recruits who will soon undergo the 12-week 6-month Public Safety Basic Recruit Course to be followed by another six-month Field Training Program under the NCR Training School.

The new batch of recruits is composed of 101 females and 761 males.

The applicants were screened through the regular entrance quotas, Purisima said. A total of 213 passed the regular quota and 649 made it under the area-line quota.

Purisima congratulated the new recruits and welcomed them into the PNP organization and to NCRPO in particular. "They are indeed a big boost to our organization," he said in a statement.

Girl with leukemia needs help

By Joni Aluman

MARIELLE

MARIELLE Mae Estoy is a 14-year-old girl suffering from Leukemia since 2002. She had a relapse twice- the last of which was a CNS relapse last January.

Marielle is currently undergoing intensive chemotherapy and radiation therapy at the Philippine Children's Medical Center. The family completely relies on Marielle's father who works as a construction worker.

She is an honor student and scholar until hoping for a bone marrow donor despite multiple relapses. She has a strong faith that God will heal her one day and then fulfill her dreams of a college degree.

Marielle is handling in heart of bone-marrow for any kind of financial and/or medical assistance. Donations may be channeled to RIZAL Foundation at 532-9907, 5926, 09209016126, facebook.com/rizalfoundation, Robinsons Land 344- deposit assistance of PCMC, Beth Jacinto, or Marielle's mother Marivel Estoy at 09065016126. Deposits can be made to Marielle's Father Moody Gilbert Estoy's Banco de Oro bank account no.0110-30-020277-992.

METROBRIEFS

Shoe-related subjects urged

THE CITY government of Marikina is urging the government-run Marikina Polytechnic College to add shoe-related subjects to their Technology-Vocational-Education and skills training courses and form the next generation of shoe makers, mayor-elected Bernardo Marcos Bal dat Bayanan said that by adding subjects focusing on shoe-making and designing, students with ability and creativity can see their talents in creating shoe businesses in the future. "We have to give our next generation of shoemakers the opportunity to flourish our creative to serve our primary industry," he Bayanan said. But Cabinet-approved the Resolution no. 384 (Series of 2011 a bill was authored by Deputy Speaker Lucy Gomez-Andaya and Representative Miro Quimbo and recently approved by the city council. Dr. Bayanan said their courses or shoe-making would enhance the shoe industry, of which Marikina has been known. "The youth's creative ideas may help the shoe industry become globally competitive in the world market," he mayor said. Dr. Bayanan said the Marikina Polytechnic College, the Tech Voc courses will be in partnership with the Marikina Shoe Industry Development Council.

Nika Calleja

Water for Binangonan folk

MORE than 5,000 residents from marginalized communities in Binangonan town in the province of Rizal will soon have access to safe and affordable water source through the Bulong Para Sa Barangay (1 Peso or Water for the Community Project. The Mahabay Homes, located in the mountainous area of Barangay Darangan and Pantok, Binangonan, Rizal, is one of the latest communities to benefit from the P4.7 project, which is estimated to benefit more than 5,000 residents. Mahabay Homes has long struggled with their water supply requirement. Before 1998, residents used to fetch water from underground sources. But in summer, when the dry season is at its driest, residents would resort to rainwater from rainwater tanks.

The WORLD

Editor: Lawrence B. Quncio

Israel scrambling over reports it is considering attacks on Iran facilities

JERUSALEM—Israel's top leadership has spent the week answering and evading questions about a purported exposure that it is once again considering a strike on Iran's nuclear complexes, while Persident Barack Obama said on Thursday that he and his allies would maintain "unprecedented international pressure" on Tehran to keep it from producing a nuclear weapon.

Israeli officials would not confirm or deny multiple reports in the Israeli news media that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak were pressing for a decision on whether and when to strike a uranium enrichment facility at Natanz, the centerpiece of Iran's known nuclear-fuel production, and related sites across the country.

Several Israeli ministers have publicly placed blame for the leaks on Meir Dagan, the former chief of Israel's Mossad intelligence service, who after leaving office this year said Netanyahu was intent on launching such an attack, and had to be restrained by opposition from top intelligence and military officials, many of whom have since left office.

Dagan, who is believed to have played a central role in scheduling the Stuxnet computer worm that set back Iran's nuclear efforts by destroying about a fifth of its nuclear centrifuges, has argued that military action is unlikely to do enough damage and could set off a new war in the Middle East.

Speaking to an audience in Tel Aviv on Wednesday night, Dagan challenged the government to produce the intelligence it had used to make its case against Iran.

Israel has debated the viability and effects of attacks many times in the past seven years, often to Washington's consternation. Obama administration officials, in private conversations with the Israelis, have argued that the combination of economic sanctions and covert sabotage of the Iranian effort has been more effective than an attack could be, without the risk of provoking reprisal missiles in a war.

But the most recent debate has been prompted by the confidence of Obama administration officials that Israel has

A special Unli postpaid offer exclusively for the subscribers of

MERALCO PLDT cignal Maynilad

SMART UNLI POSTPAID+

Exclusive plans made especially for the most valuable customers!

UNLI TEXT*

299

+ FREE 50 SMS ALL NETWORKS
+ FREE SAMSUNG E1080 PHONE
+ SMART MONEY CARD
+ **FREE MERALCO/ MAYNILAD ALERTS

UNLI CALL&TEXT*

599

+ FREE 100 SMS ALL NETWORKS
+ FREE NOKIA C1-01PHONE
+ SMART MONEY CARD
+ **FREE MERALCO/ MAYNILAD ALERTS

Simply present your latest paid Meralco, PLDT, Maynilad or Cignal bill of at least P400 and a valid ID to a SMART Store near you.

*T&C apply.
**Register to Meralco Text and Maynilad Text Subay to get free alerts.

SMART

IN THIS ISSUE
- Aboitiz holding firm posts 5% drop in 9-month profit /B2
- Canada 'discouraged' by open-pit mining ban /B3
- In energy talks, fuel security now a regional concern /B4
- High court's tax order came too late, says DOF /B6

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

Inflation surged to 5.2% in October

A MODEL poses with one of a line of Japanese automaker Honda during a motor show by Honda earlier this year. Honda has suspended production at its Philippine plant because supplies in flooded Thailand are unable to deliver parts, a company official said. AFP

Increase due to food price spikes caused by typhoons

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE ANNUAL inflation rate accelerated to 5.2 percent in October from 4.8 percent in September on the back of price increases in heavily weighted food items, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

Economists attributed the higher food prices to farm damage and transport disruptions due to recent typhoons but expect the inflation rate to stay within the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' target range. Hence, economists said, they would not expect any changes in monetary policy.

"Third-quarter performance will be slightly better than [the second quarter] but the rise in inflation can be attributed to cost-push factors such as supply constraints and rise in production input cost—not demand-pull factors associated with the economic growth and recovery. I think the BSP will maintain its policy stance because the current inflation is still within the 3 to 5 percent range," according to Gil L. Tayag, economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Finance Budget Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno, now with the UP School of Economics, also said he saw no concrete core inflation or reason to change monetary policy.

"I expect inflation to taper off as a result of slower economic growth, falling oil prices and augmenting rice. January to October prices averaged 4.8 percent, well within the BSP target range. As a result, I expect no change in monetary policy," Diokno said.

The increase in the October consumer price index under the new 2006 base series compares with analysts' forecasts of 5 percent in a Reuters poll. The new data series was first released in July.

The index under the old data series rose 2000 as the June year rose an annual 5.3 percent, accelerating from the previous month's rate of 4.6 percent, the NSO said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had forecast annual inflation in October at be-

ABS-CBN NEWS B3

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Nov. 4, 2011
42.920

STOCK MARKET
Nov. 4, 2011
61.47

See main market reports on Page C3.

Stocks gain 1.46%

LOCAL stocks rebounded yesterday on talks that Greece had obtained a plan to put its economy on a long-awaited European bailout plan.

The main index Philippine Stock Exchange index surged 91.47 points or 1.46 percent to close at 6,271.71.

Due to events earlier in this shortened trading week, the index ended 1.4 percent lower. Read a week ago.

The rebound was spurred by Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou's building block from a make-or-break referendum plan that could have paved the way for a bailout agreement to bail out Greece and boost European banks.

Overnight, the Dow Jones industrial average bounded by 391.01 for the second day, gaining 298.43 points or 1.76 percent to finish at 11,808.47 as BSE broker showed the development in Greece.

At the local market, all counters ended higher especially the financial sub-index, which boomed 1.6 percent.

Value turnover amounted to P4.34 billion. Some P357 million in net foreign buying aided the index.

STORY B1

Preliminary study shows gas pipeline to Manila feasible

By Amy R. Rosco

THE PROPOSED $1.3-billion Batangas-Manila natural gas pipeline project has been found feasible enough for the government and private firms to pursue, according to the preliminary report conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr. said the project's feasibility was based on certain assumptions on supply and demand, which are cushioned would have to be reviewed carefully based on the projected demand, the facilities [project would] need an anchor load of 600 MVC he added.

"They have a projected supply and demand. As an example, they have projections on supply

PAGE B2

END-OCTOBER 2011

Forex reserves rise to $75.8B

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE COUNTRY'S foreign exchange reserves continued to grow in October and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said this further shielded the Philippines from the adverse effects of unfavorable economic developments abroad.

The gross international reserves (GIR) amounted to $75.8 billion as of the end of October, up 3% year-on-year from $77.13 billion a year ago. The GIR in September stood at $75.17 billion.

According to the BSP, the rise in the country's GIR was due mainly to its foreign exchange operations. In cases when upward pressure on the peso was significant, the central bank would intervene in the market by buying dollars to temper volatility.

The stability of the BSP-to-buy dollar from the market is aided by the country's usual sources of foreign exchange inflows—remittances and investments in business process outsourcing.

The central bank said that while it adopted a policy of allowing a market-determined exchange rate, it would exercise its flexibility to intervene in the market from time to time to avoid too much volatility in the exchange rate.

The BSP said the increase in remittances of gold also aided the growth in the foreign exchange reserves in October. A portion of the country's reserves are in the form of gold. Overseers from the BSP observed that of the GIR in October, $7.9 billion were accounted for by the precious metal.

"The appreciable buildup in the reserves level resulted mainly from the foreign exchange operations and income from investment abroad of the BSP as well as revaluation gains in the BSP's gold holdings," the BSP said in a statement.

The BSP said the foreign exchange reserves as of October was enough to cover 11.2 months' worth of the country's total imports. It was also 6.4 times the country's foreign currency-denominated debt coming within a year.

It said the country's strong foreign exchange reserves were a major factor in the Philippines' improved credit ratings. The reserves help ensure the country's ability to service its obligations to foreign creditors.

Aboitiz holding firm posts 5% drop in 9-month profit

Power unit contributed 77% or ₱11.7B

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. posted a nine-month consolidated net income of ₱15 billion, down 5 percent from a year ago, due to the lower selling price and output of its flagship power generation business.

But for the third quarter alone, AEV's consolidated net profit increased 5 percent to ₱5.8 billion from a year ago. Aboitiz said the one-off items AEV closed the quarter with core profit of ₱5.8 billion, 16 percent higher than a year ago.

For the January to September period, the power business accounted for the lion's share of core earnings at ₱7 billion, followed by the banking and food units with income contributions of 17 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

Aboitiz Power ended the first nine months with a consolidated income of ₱16.2 billion, down 11 percent from a year ago.

Income contribution from banking recorded a 39-percent improvement to ₱2.7 billion, in particular, Union Bank of the Philippines ended the period with an earnings contribution of ₱2.3 billion, up 28 percent from a year ago. Total interest income increased with the expansion of average earning assets, notwithstanding the decline in average asset yields.

Meanwhile, contribution from the food business slipped 14 percent to ₱877 million in the first nine months as higher input costs weighed down the profitability of the flour and swine segments.

For the nine-month period, the power generation business contributed earnings of ₱11.7 billion, recording a 16-percent drop. As a group, Aboitiz Power's generation business logged a 16-percent decline in average selling prices given the softening of the spot market prices compared with 2010 levels. The average price of electricity in the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) recorded a 48-percent year-on-year drop for the nine-month period.

Demand for electricity particularly on the Island of Luzon, was relatively flat compared with last year's demand. Supply, in the meantime, showed increases given marked improvements in energy levels for Luzon-based power plants.

The adverse impact on earnings, however, was tempered by Aboitiz Power's strategic contracts in the exposure to the spot market with the group's increased contracted capacity.

On the other hand, Aboitiz Power's net generation for the first nine months declined from 7,340 GWh to 7,191 GWh. The drop was due to reduced spot market transactions brought by the prevailing base prices in the WESM.

"Our power generation and distribution businesses have maintained to show strong recurring income for the quarter," AEV and Aboitiz Power president Erramon Aboitiz said.

PNOC-EC net profit up 55% in 9 months

By Amy S. Barros

PNOC Exploration Corp., the upstream oil and coal arm of state-run Philippine National Oil Co., posted a 55-percent surge in its net income to ₱2.46 billion in the first nine months due to the strong performance of its business units and prudent spending.

In a statement, PNOC-EC chair and pres. Alvin Castillejos Lopez Jr. cited the case of its energy supply base business, which generated a 229-percent jump in total revenue to ₱1.45 billion this year from only ₱440 million last year.

In other business units, namely, the Malampaya project and the coal trading and integrated services, also generated more income, he added.

Given the robust performance of the company, Lopez said PNOC-EC would undertake new exploration projects in pursuit of its mandate, which was "to play a crucial and decisive role in the country's quest for energy independence and sustainability."

Lopez disclosed that PNOC-EC has earmarked ₱600 million to drill within the first half of next year an exploration well in the San Salvino prospect within Service Contract 51.

PNOC-EC also continued to conduct various geological studies within its other service contract areas, hoping that these could lead the company in discovering new sources of oil and gas, he added.

For its coal projects, PNOC-EC reminded Luzon on providing material support for the proposed coal-fired power plants in the provinces of Isabela and Camarines Sur, Lopez explained.

BHI raises stakes in Boracay, Cebu

BOULEVARD Holdings Inc. has raised its stake in Boracay with the acquisition of a new beach front property in Barangay Balabag through the resort subsidiary Fridays Holdings Inc.

In a separate deal, BHI has acquired the role of property lease manager for Cebu resort estate landowner Tri Islands Corporate Holdings Inc. for the latter's 2000-hectare property in Barangay Sambyong, Bbadbad, Cebu. This will be under a two-year "buyout" period.

For Boracay, a memorandum of agreement was signed to acquire the Palm Island and Beauty Management Corp.'s beachfront parcel of land, a building, machinery, furniture and fixtures all located at Sitio Bocaingan for $1.32 million.

A downpayment of $50,000 was paid where the agreement was signed while the balance will be paid at year's end.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, BHI said Friday's had won the bid among several offers for the property because of its nine-year relationship with the French owners, having managed the nine villas and duly accounting for the owner's share for that length of time.

As part of the deal, BHI will help Friday's pay for the parcel in the amount of $500,000 and subsequently invest by the middle of next year, or during the low season, some ₱1.9 million to build 14 premiere suites at 9% million each. Currently, the resort has 26 premium suites fetching a price between ₱18,000 and ₱21,000 a night during mid and high seasons.

Friday's professed sales for its fiscal year ending June 2011 is projecting to ₱149 million. For the fiscal year ending June 2012, budgeted sales amounted to ₱180 million.

"With the additional suites, it can grow revenue by [another] 70% million for June 2013," BHI said.

For Cebu, the land for which BHI will act as property manager is located at Barangay Sambyong, Mandaue—a well-known tourist destination especially for diving and island hopping in Cebu. It is about one hour southwest from Cebu City.

In exchange for such services, BHI will receive a fee of 30 percent of the gross leases on every new lease rental signed with monthly floorspace leased for a period of two years or more. It also will receive

Canada 'discouraged' by open-pit mining ban

Ordinance runs counter to gov't policy, says ambassador

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CANADIAN Embassy in the Philippines is disappointed over Zamboanga del Norte's passage of an ordinance banning open-pit mining, saying this runs counter to what the national government wants to do with the local mining industry.

"We are discouraged that no one among stakeholders are being frustrated. (What happened recently) is not within the jurisdiction of the party taking (here) action," Canadian Ambassador Christopher Thornley said in a briefing yesterday.

He said that Canada was a "responsible" mining country, and that Canadian mining companies follow a stringent set of rules, both in their home country and overseas, including the Philippines.

As a significant part of the Canadian economy relies on mining, he said mining from local responsible mining activities very seriously.

Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines president Julian Payne added that the local mining industry could be developed by using socially and environmentally responsible mining practices.

Irresponsible practices employed by illegal small-scale mining operations, he said, should not be taken as an industry-wide norm.

The Zamboanga del Norte provincial government last week issued an ordinance banning open-pit mining in the province, which would take effect on June 6.

The ordinance gives standing operations such as Canadian Toronto Ventures Exploration Philippines Inc. an extension of one year to close shop.

TVI Pacific said it would challenge the ordinance in court through local affiliate TVI Resource Development Philippines Inc.

"It is the opinion of TVIRD's external Philippine legal counsel that the powers exercised by the provincial governor of Zamboanga del Norte under the ordinance are in direct contravention of Philippine laws passed by the Congress, including the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and the Local Government Code of 1991, and are therefore unconstitutional," TVI Pacific said in an exclusive statement.

Ambassador Thornley said the Canadian government was quite satisfied with how the national government was handling the issue, and that the embassy would support whatever the government would do to address environmental concerns.

He said that despite the ordinance in South Cotabato could potentially be lifted before year's end.

The ban, however, remains in place, and neighboring provinces such as Zamboanga del Norte have started to follow South Cotabato's example.

DBM allots ₱25M for Corregidor

By Bonnel W. Dominguez

MALACAÑANG has earmarked P25 million for the refurbishing of historical facilities in Corregidor due to the rising number of tourists arriving to the island, according to Budget Secretary Florencio Abad.

"The Aquino administration recognizes the importance of preserving historical sites like Corregidor," Abad said. "Apart from preserving our cultural heritage, this also supports our bid to boost tourism in the country."

Also known as "The Rock," Corregidor symbolizes the triumphs, valor and heroism of Filipino soldiers as they fought side by side with the Americans during World War II.

"This is certainly a cultural heritage that we would want to preserve and showcase to the world," the budget chief said.

Abad added that the implementation of the restoration project is needed to ensure the historical structures in Corregidor Island from collapsing.

The fund release, which is part of the P72-billion economic stimulus package, will go to the continuation of structural retrofitting of the Gen. Corregidor Building.

The fund will also cover the cost of peripheral works such as the securing of access roads, solar lampposts installation and the installation of new solar panels for the Pacific War Museum's power supply system.

"Completion of the project is necessary since there is a 7-percent increase in the number of tourist arrivals in Corregidor to 76,329 so far this year from 70,891 in 2010," Abad said.

"For a mile from the upcoming renovated museum even earlier. It's which is expected to bring 500 to 1,000 tourists to the island," he added.

Tourism school to open in Boracay, Cebu

THE CANADIAN Tourism & Hospitality Institute (CTHI) will be putting up two campuses in Boracay and Cebu by next year and 10 more branches in various tourist destinations in the country.

During yesterday's launch of CTHI's first campus, CTHI president Sonia Lim said the aim was to put up a branch in key tourist spots in the country, starting with Boracay and Cebu.

The first campus, on the second floor of the Burgos Plaza in Mandaluyong City, would be a pilot campus, he said. Another campus-owned campus would be put up, followed by 20 more that would be owned by franchisees.

The CTHI campus in Mandaluyong is a franchise of the Canadian Tourism College from Vancouver.

Lim said that some countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region had expressed interest in having franchises as well.

"For the Asean, we're eyeing at least 100 campuses. We've had some interest from Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia," he said in a briefing yesterday.

These franchisees, he said, would come from Frontline Investment Holdings Inc. (FHI), the holder of the master franchise for the Canadian Tourism College.

FHI would take per master franchises for each region it covers in Asia, and soon, expand over the world, he said.

"Everybody feels the need for this kind of understanding, but nobody has concentrated these plans. We want to have a number of franchisees to others," he said.

CTHI's Mandaluyong campus started operating on a pilot basis last year, and had enrolled around 400 students in different tourism and hospitality sector activities.

The school offers four-year and two-year courses, as well as short courses lasting just two months. Gate-day workshops are also being offered. Abigail L. Ho

In energy talks, fuel security now a regional concern

By Amy R. Remo

SINGAPORE—With an uncertain global economic outlook and heightened price volatility, energy security is no longer just about ensuring all supply. It is now critical for developing every available source of fuel, said Ms Ann Tandon, global associate for Energy Security and Sustainability at The Economist Intelligence Unit in Japan.

"The future of energy security is more complex and difficult today. It requires us to work with neighboring countries to ensure and supply energy needs in an affordable and sustainable way," Tandon said during the recent Singapore Energy Summit. "I would like to see Asian countries work together in the future to create a framework that will achieve an interconnected grid in the region."

Much of the discussion, however, now centers on private energy companies and others' initiatives shared. Tandon's view on oil concerns point to a grossing power demand fueled by a growing global population that is expected to reach 8 billion by 2050.

In a separate but interesting love, Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras himself also stressed the need for the Philippines to diversify its energy sources so that could help insulate power and transport consumers from the volatility of prices in the global markets.

With economic life of traditional petroleum supplies dwindling to only about 40 years, Almendras told the Inquirer that the Philippine government has been focusing more on developing the country's own indigenous resources, such as coal, in a step-up investment venture, as well as oil, natural gas and renewable energy sources—to ensure adequate supply for power and transportation.

"The priority of the Philippine government is development, development, development, and we (there) are two sides to that—oil and gas exploration for fuel for your transport and power generation, but also indigenous generation of renewable energy capacity, which is really more predictable and hydro," Almendras said on the sidelines of the Singapore Energy Summit.

Almendras likewise stressed the importance of boosting energy efficiency measures as these could significantly cut costs. This move has been supported by representatives of neighboring countries, who also believe in pushing for energy efficiency measures to help manage demand.

Mrs. Peter Voser of Royal Dutch Shell noted that ensuring global energy security would require the cooperation of governments to develop all sectors, while energy resources in order to meet increasing demand, especially that of the emerging economies.

"From if the global energy mix gets to 50 percent renewables, all forms of energy must be developed to meet their future demand," he stressed.

Voser told delegates at the Singapore Energy Summit that by 2020, the world will need to produce an estimated 40 million barrels of oil per day—but shale has not yet been developed yet, due to a combination of heightened demand and production lost through the natural decline of today's fields.

"To put that in perspective, that's four times what Saudi Arabia produces today, or 10 times the Norwegian production," the Royal Dutch Shell boss explained. "Now is where we should be building a consensus to address our future energy challenge."

'All forms of energy must be developed to meet demand'

PSALM to bid out 4 diesel power barges

STATE-RUN Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. said it would soon start bidding process for the sale of four diesel-fired power barges to comply with the provisions of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA).

In a statement, PSALM president and chief executive officer Emmanuel R. Ledesma Jr. said that the board of directors has already approved the sale of Power Barges 101, 102, 103 and 104, with the condition that the barges should be transferred to Mindanao to augment the power supply in the region.

The transfer will occur after the power situation stabilizes in the Visayas, where the power barges are currently moored, Ledesma said.

PSALM, in coordination with the Department of Energy, has yet to finalize the timeline and details for the relocation. All income for costs will be on the account of the winning bidder, he said.

"The power barges are movable, and can be relocated anywhere with adequate mooring structures. Designed as base-load plants, PB 101, 102, 103 and 104 are each rated 50-megawatt (MW) barge-mounted bunker-fired diesel generating power stations that consist of four identical Hitachi-Sulzer diesel generator units rated at 63 MW each," Ledesma explained.

The transfer of the diesel power barges was meant to avoid retiring investments in the power plants on binary reliance on hydropower plants.

Currently, Mindanao sources more than half of its electricity requirements from hydropower sources, with the Agus-Pulangi hydropower complex providing over 700 megawatts (MW).

However, the bidding for the four power barges is also threatened to be postponed because of a pending lease-to-service deed by Rep. Rafael Rodriguez.

Through the bill, the legislator is urging PSALM "not to bid out the remaining four power barges and instead make them available to provide power in Mindanao."

The lawmaker earlier sought a congressional probe on PSALM to determine why the agency had to sell the barges to the detriment of Mindanao power consumers.

Aside the National Power Corp. earlier bought the diesel power barges from Enron Subic Power Corp. and Hopewell Holdings Power Corp. These barges were used to help ease a severe power shortage in the Philippines, providing required support in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Commissioned in 1981, PB 101 and PB 102 are currently moored at Barangay Baloy, Iligan City, while PB 103 and 104, which were commissioned in 1985, are moored at Bolanguan, Bataan's, Iloilo, and at the Bulacan Compound, Iligan, Davao City, respectively.

Since they began operations, these barges had been moored close to its power plants' support to various regions. —Amy R. Remo

High court's tax ...

From page B4

order," the DOF statement said. "The agencies simply did not receive the TRO before they were required by law to withhold the tax."

Moreover, the DOF said, the SBE and the BIR—both of which are part of the department—"had absolutely no discretion to defer the withholding of the tax."

Citing Sections 251 and 253 of the Tax Code, the DOF said failure by a withholding agent to withhold a tax at source is punishable of up to 10 years, a fine of at least P10,000, and a penalty equal to the amount of the tax in question.

"Had the agencies received the TRO before the close of business on Oct. 31, 2011, compliance would not have been a problem," the department said. However, since the TRO was received only on the day after the tax had been withheld, compliance with the TRO was no longer possible."

The DOF added that the government agencies involved specifically wanted the official delivery of a copy of the TRO, which came only by noontime on November 1, 2011.

The TRO was issued in response to eight banks who have invested in the bonds, including Banco de Oro Unibank, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Bank of Commerce, China Banking Corp., Philippine Bank of Communications, Philippine National Bank, Security Bank, Rizal Bank and Planters Development Bank.

In the TRO, the high court ordered the banks to put in escrow the amount corresponding to the disputed tax.

Also, yesterday, the DOF estimated calls for interested parties to withdraw from issuing rescinding said collusionary documents in the media and to allow the courts to resolve the issues surrounding the tax treatment of the PEA-o Bonds."

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Lanao del Norte

PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE
Gov. Imelda N. Quiñonez Government Center
Tubod, Lanao del Norte

OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPEAR TO BID

Name of Project | ABC
1. Supply and delivery of 161 units motorcycle with side car/tricycle and 1 unit 4x4 pick-up (non-bids) (Federal Fund assistance of Lanao del Norte) | P 5,130,000.00
2. Supply and delivery of tractor (not limited to Kubota M-Series) Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) Agusan Station | P 2,925,000.00
3. Supply and delivery of 300 sheets G28 1.5mmx2.4mmx0.4mm Galvanized Iron Roofing with 2 Smoothed Asphalt Fiberglass Roofing Provincial Road Section | P 6,750,000.00

PHILGEPS Ref. No. | Date
Posting of Invitation to Bid | Nov. 15, 2011 (10:00 am)
Deadline for Submission of Letter of Expression of Interest and Bidding Documents upon payment of non-refundable fee of
a. P 2,500.00
b. P 2,500.00
c. P 5,000.00 | Nov. 25, 2011 (10:00 am)
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bidding Documents for Pre-qualification | Nov. 25, 2011 (10:00 am)

For more inquiries, please call BAC Secretariat Telephone No. 063-341-0000.

This Invitation shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

The Province of Lanao Del Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids, and waive any formality or technicality, and to declare any bid(s) ineligible or disqualified, without incurring any liability to the Provincial Government of Lanao Del Norte. The Provincial Government of Lanao Del Norte confers absolute any obligation to any new advertisement that may be necessary after failure to the completion of these activities. Bids over the Provincial Government of Lanao Del Norte guarantee fees as stated will be made.

(Sgd.) MILDRED L. ANADIS
BAC – Chairperson

(PhilPhilippines 2, 2011)

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Head Office
East Triangle, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 920-6401 to 07 / Fax No. 920-6446
www.sss.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID
(Re-bid: 2011-10-02—Cluster)

Supply and Installation of the 800 Fire Suppression System at 6600 Sensor & GPS Rooms and Network Equipment Room at SSS Main Office Building

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) & Source of Fund	Delivery/Completion Period	Cost/Fee: Bid Documents Acquisition	Cost/Fee: Deadline/Opening of Envelopes/Bids	Price of the Bid Documents (non-refundable)
ABC: P4,000,000.00 Source of Funds: 2011 CAPEX	90 calendar days	December 7, 2011 (Wednesday) 2:00 p.m.	December 21, 2011 (Wednesday) 2:00 p.m.	P2,000.00

1. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.
2. The Bidding Documents shall be sold to the prospective bidders from the date of the first publication of the Invitation to Bid until December 7, 2011 (Wednesday) at 2:00 p.m. at the Cashier's Office, Ground Floor, SSS Main Office Building, Diliman, Quezon City. Bidding Documents shall not be sold on December 8, 2011 (Thursday) which is the Bidding Conference, and also on October 31, 2011.
3. Bidders shall be prequalified through submission of the following documents: valid and current Mayor's/Business Permit; valid and current Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License; and Income and Business Tax Returns for the immediately preceding year.
4. Bidders shall submit the following documents: Omnibus Sworn Statement; valid and current PCAB License; and Income and Business Tax Returns for the immediately preceding year.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the SSS Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
6. Interested bidders may purchase the Bidding Documents for the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) and submit their bids on December 7, 2011 (Wednesday) at 2:00 p.m. at the Cashier's Office, Ground Floor, SSS Main Office Building, Diliman, Quezon City. Bidding Documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the SSS website, provided that the bidder shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
7. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on December 15, 2011 (Thursday) at 2:00 p.m. at the PPMD Conference Room, Fifth Floor, SSS Bldg., East Triangle, Mandaluyong City. Non-attendance of the prospective bidder in the Pre-Bid Conference will be a ground for disqualification to participate in the bidding.
8. The SSS Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without incurring any liability, and make due inquiries on the qualifications of all bidders.
9. For further information, please refer to the SSS Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the above address and telephone number.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANTONIO ARNALDO D. CRUZ
Chairman, SSS Bids and Awards Committee

(SSS—November 5, 2011)

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
Bldg. 229, Waterfront Rd.
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
Tel (63 47) 252-8555 to 8558 • Fax (63 47) 252-8560 to 8561
www.sbma.com

ITB No. –12-11

INVITATION TO BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY (SBMA), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for Goods and Services, invites Eligible Bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the transaction hereto.

Name of Project	Estimated Budget for the Contract (ABC)
Services and Materials One (1) Year Contract for the Supply and Delivery of Diesel Fuel and Unleaded Gasoline	P 20,000,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of RA 9184. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable bid documents fee of P5,000.00 to the SBMA Treasury Department, Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, SBFZ, beginning on November 8, 2011 to November 28, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

It may also be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on November 15, 2011 (Tuesday) at 2:00 p.m. at the PPMD Conference Room, Fifth Floor, SSS Bldg., East Triangle, Mandaluyong City. Non-attendance of the prospective bidder in the Pre-Bid Conference will be a ground for disqualification to participate in the bidding.

Deadline for the submission and opening of the bid/bidder documents shall be on November 28, 2011 (Monday) at 2:00 p.m., PPMD Conference Room, Rm. 201, Banyan Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

The SBMA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) ENGR. MARCELINO S. BANGIS
BAC Chairman

(MANILA STAR
Nov. 5, 2011)

Pay heed to Occupy Wall Street protesters, Asia urged

By Michaela V. Reyes

A RANKING official of the International Monetary Fund said the Philippines and other emerging economies should pay close attention to the "Occupy Wall Street" movement now developing in the United States because it is a message to the problems cited by US protesters.

Masayuki Shirakawa, IMF deputy managing director for Asia, in the Philippines to meet with the country's economic officials, yesterday said in a forum that the issue of income inequality is something that the Philippines has yet to address.

Shirakawa said that although the country was able to partly reduce poverty incidence over the past few years, the gap in income among the rich and poor remained wide.

"[The Occupy Wall Street movement] is a serious issue of social tension. That should not be seen as a concern only of the United States, but as an issue that everyone has to have," Shirakawa said at the business conference yesterday at the Asian Institute of Management.

He said that if the Philippines and other emerging Asian markets were to avoid the current woes upcoming the United States and calls for advanced economies, measures addressing income inequality should be put in place.

Shirakawa said he would back proposals to reengineer the Philippine government's Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program because it would help ease the stress created by the wide income disparity between the rich and poor.

Under the CCT, the government will grant monthly food subsidy to some of the poorest households. Basic subsidy per household is P500. The amount will be added by about P300 per child for a maximum of three children. Recipient households are required to send their children to school.

"In seeing spending on targeted subsidies and other social safety nets, such as free education and health, can assess to address the problem," Shirakawa explained.

Poverty in the country remains high even as the domestic economy continues to grow in recent years at 6 percent.

The latest government report on poverty said that as of 2009, Filipinos living below the poverty line stood at 26 percent of the population.

The media on improvement from the levels seen between the late 1990s to early 2000s, when a third of the population lived below the poverty line. But the latest poverty figure is still far from the Philippines had set in its Millennium Development Goal, where poverty incidence should not be covered 17 percent of the population by 2015.

Shirakawa said that, unlike advanced economies, the Philippines and other Asian neighbors could be expected to perform much better this year and the next. This region is seen to continue driving growth of the global economy.

According to IMF projections, the Philippines is still poised by 4.5 percent this year and 4.9 percent next year. China is expected to grow by 9.5 percent this year and 9 percent next year.

On the other hand, the United States is projected to grow by 1.5 percent this year and by 1.8 percent next year. The euro zone economies are seen to grow by an average of 1.6 percent this year and 1.1 percent next year.

ORDER

INVITATION TO BID

CITY GOVERNMENT OF TOLEDO

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ADVISORY

To our valued advertisers,

On Monday, November 7 (a non-working holiday) only our Inquirer Classifieds Magsaysay Branch will be open from 10am-6pm.

For your advertising needs, please call 8350218 or 8372154.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

ROOM & BOARD

APARTMENT

LOAN & MORTGAGE

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MULTIPURPOSE

LOST/AWAY

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CALL LOAN

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLIC NOTICES

OBITUARIES

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

More Classifieds en pego...

Province of Leyte del Norte B4
Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority B4
Social Security System B4

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side; your rod and staff give me courage."
Psalm 23:4

In Memoriam

The Ateneo de Manila High School Class of 1956
Together with Grade School 1952 and College 1960

Fondly remembers its beloved classmates
Who have gone ahead to their eternal rest

In their memory, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.
on Sunday, November 6th
at the Chapel of the First Companions,
Ateneo High School Campus

Sanctæ me, Domine, secundum eloquium tuum et veram, Et non confundas me ab exspectatione mea. – Ps 119, v 116

PAX

DOM HENRY BAGNE VICTOR, OSB

(Faustino Bagne Victor)

A monk of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, Manila, strengthened by the sacraments, died on November 2, 2011 at the age of seventy seven in the 51st year of his monastic profession.

The **Rt. Rev. Tarcisio Ma. H. Narciso, OSB**, Abbot, and the **monks** of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, his brothers, **Lucio** and wife **Florence, Apolonio** and wife **Edith**, nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, and other relatives request the pious readers to join them in their prayers for his eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at the Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat (San Beda College) Mendiola St., Manila.

The Office for the Dead is celebrated for him on November 3 and 5, 2011.

The Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, **November 6, 2011** at 1:00 o'clock in the Abbey Church. Interment will follow at the La Loma Catholic Cemetery, Manila, immediately after the Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations for charitable works in his memory through the San Beda College Benedictine Educational Foundation, Inc. (SBCBEFI) will be greatly appreciated.

BUSINESS

High court's tax order came too late, says DOF

Treasury forced to withhold P4.8-B take from PEACe bonds

By Russel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance withheld P4.8 billion worth of taxes from the property-redemption and affordable-condominium, or PEACe bonds, contrary to a Supreme Court decision because the high tribunal's order was received a day late, the agency revealed in a statement.

The DOF, in a comment submitted through the Office of the Solicitor General, said the 20 percent tax had been withheld because the agency received the high court's temporary restraining order (TRO) only on Oct. 31, or a day after the PEACe bonds matured.

The DOF said the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr), the authorized withholding agent, was required under the Tax Code to withhold the taxes; otherwise, its officers would be held liable for evasion.

Also, the DOF said that under the same law and before the TRO was received, collecting officers of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) were the only authorized agents to exempt the tax withheld.

"Considering the criminal and civil penalties for failure to withhold a tax, I reasoned[ly] government officials would withhold until the very last minute [on Oct. 18], for the reported TRO," the DOF said. "Unfortunately, no TRO arrived in time."

In a telephone interview, Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim S. Henares confirmed that the tax liabilities for the PEACe bonds worth P96 billion had already been withheld.

Issued in 2004, the instrument bonds were sold at a discounted rates worth around P43.7 billion.

While bondholders did not earn interest every quarter until the PEACe bonds had matured, unlike regular bonds, the certificates yielded a total of P24.34 billion equivalent to the discount. The 20-percent final withholding tax was culled from this amount, the BIR said.

"Contrary to some news reports, the agencies concerned did not 'defy' [the Supreme Court's]

MORE B4

Gov't to secure stability of Angat

By Amy R. Rodriguez

TIDE-FLOW Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. has commissioned a study that will look into and ensure the long-term safety and stability of the Angat Dam, a critical structure that provides almost all the water requirements of Metro Manila residents.

In a statement, PSALM president and CEO Emmanuel R. Lefcourt Jr. said the agency had tapped the services of Engineering Development Corp. of the Philippines (Edcop), one of the leading engineering consultancy companies in the country, to conduct the study on Angat Dam and Ipo Dike at Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Edcop briefed two other firms when it submitted to PSALM the best bid of P30.79 million for the safety study, which will be conducted over a period of six months.

According to Lefcourt, Edcop will also look into other major structures, like the 246-megawatt Angat hydroelectric power plant, a 131-meter-rock fill of the main dam and the 52-meter rock fill dike dam. The company will also make recommendations to mitigate risks in these structures.

Commissioned in the early 1960s, the Angat Dam and Dike is a concrete multipurpose structure for domestic water supply, irrigation, power and flood control. It supplies 97 percent of the service area of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), generates approximately 246 MW of power for the Luzon grid through the power plant, and irrigates 28,000 hectares of rice land for the National Irrigation System (NIA).

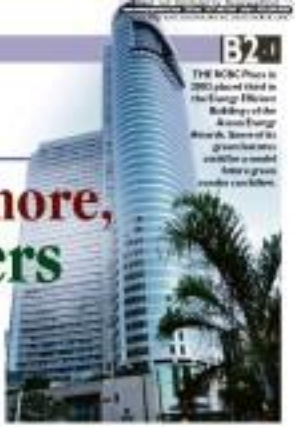
Considered a national security concern, the project is being undertaken in coordination with the MWSS, the NIA, the National Power Corp., the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, the Office of Civil Defense, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, and the Provincial Government of Bulacan.

Edcop is primarily involved in the engineering and design survey for power and industrial projects, water resources and agricultural infrastructures.

It has entered into a joint venture agreement with Tonkin & Taylor International to undertake the Angat safety study.

The New Zealand firm Tonkin & Taylor is an environmental and engineering consultancy company that provides innovative, cost-effective and sustainable solutions for a diverse range of clients.

Edu Cesar D. Mangowang
PROPERTY



THE NCBC Pixo in 2003 placed third in the Energy Efficient Building of the Asean Energy Awards. Some of its green features could be a model for future green condo architects.

Green condos worth 15% more, wanted by 63% of buyers

Text and photos by Tonyl. Salazar

GLOBALLY, THE real estate industry is also undergoing a buyers' "climate change" of sorts. Property analysts are observing that owner and users developers, as well as individual buyers, want more "green" in their properties.

Enrique Soriano, a professor at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and senior advisor at Wong + Bernstein Business Advocacy, revealed why during one of his lectures:

• According to a recent survey, 63 percent of buyers are motivated by the lower operating and maintenance costs that come with energy- and resource-efficient condos. And when the property markedly increases in value.

• Citing an article in the January 2008 edition of SmartMoney, Soriano quotes, "A green property typically appraises 15 to 35 percent higher than comparable conventional homes."

Soriano said that four years ago, research by the National Association of Realtors on home buyers' preferences, published in the New York Times in November 2007, showed that demand for green housing has been growing: 46 percent of buyers would like a green home.

The catch is, supplies are limited.

"After Ditto Manila, eco-friendly condos in transit-oriented developments (TODs) should now be seriously considered in Cebu, Davao, Baguio, Iloilo and Bacolod, including Subic and Clark, Cagayan de Oro and General Santos," he said.

Because mid-condo living in TODs maximizes the connection between people and their neighborhood—connecting people to jobs, schools, shops, services and, most importantly, to each other.

Terrible pollution

There is one piece of advice for living near mass transport systems. Alejandro S. Habacon, chair of the National Real Estate Association, previously told the Inquirer that TODs also bring people closer to the "terrible pollution prevalent in major cities, such that condo dwellers cannot open their windows, which were actually intended to provide natural ventilation. Furthermore, the noise from the buses, jeepneys and the LRTs and MRTs (unlike the subways of some neighboring countries) themselves can be heard all the way to the top floor of some condos, especially those units facing the road. The result is the continuous use of air-conditioning units to keep the smoke and the noise out. Thus, while some condos maximize fuel consumption, others can increase electric consumption."

But Dan Soriano's lecture also pointed out how eco-friendly condos in TODs cure families misery on their second largest expense—transportation. Then, it produces positive results in traffic safety and public health and creates a larger tax base.

The green standard

For many real estate developers, TODs are now the green standard in community design. There are many advantages, including increased profits; lower tax rebates; incentives (by legislation); favorable energy audits; higher energy-efficiency ratings; better operation and maintenance and equipment; a sustained and predictable asset value; the goodwill and image; corporate social responsibility; and brand loyalty.

For buyers, eco-friendly condos would make a lot of sense. There are some of the reasons:

• The earth-friendly condo requires a smaller lot area to house more people.

• Location encourages walking or use of mass transport.

• Water and electricity bills are low.

• Amenities require natural resources.

• Materials used are sustainable and nontoxic.

Amado de Assis, founding chair of the Philippine Green Architecture Movement, disclosed that ideally, high-rise complex with three small buildings, a footprint, minimize the numerous size of the land. Roomy living is for other low-rise and green developments.

However, a condo project can only be considered truly green if it is climatically designed to adapt to its natural environment," he noted.

Habacon, during a previous interview, said generally, condos "save precious land which can be used for planting trees."

De Assis wanted the public to assist Philippine developers buying their projects as earth-friendly with no solid basis. "Don't be fooled by all the hype about installed solar panels, landscaping, and recycled paper stock." They must be substantiated and properly certified by expert persons to be actually classified as green, he stressed.

Editor Cesar G. Pangyarihan

SCIENCE/HEALTH

The future depends on Mom's milk, baby's umbilical cord

By Tonyo R. Salazar

THE SYMBIOTIC 7 billion/6 baby in the world has been born, and so baby Danica begins her journey in an uncertain world. But like all babies born in the past, and in the future, one question persists: How would the infant be given the best chance to a healthy life?

Science has proven that human mother's milk remains optimal immunity to a child that could last well into college, a fact that no artificial infant formula can match. As nutrition experts have pointed out, breastmilk contains all the ingredients to help develop a baby into an intelligent citizen, armed with the best defenses to stave off infectious diseases and chronic illnesses, disorders, allergies, even diabetes and obesity.

Recent research also now states that breastmilk is the only perfect food for infants and the only perfect milk for children. The World Health Organization and United Nations Children Fund (Unicef) recommend that infants should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life to achieve optimal growth, development and health, after which the child should be given nutritionally adequate and safe complementary foods, with breastmilk still being the staple even beyond two years of age.

Medical research and development has found a perfect one-two weapon against a deadly future dread diseases. One is breastmilk, the other is umbilical cord blood.

Painless procedure

Cord blood banking is a painless procedure that expects themselves not affect the safety of the mother and the baby. It involves storing hematopoietic stem cells, known as the building blocks of the blood and immune system, and these are collected from the umbilical cord linking the baby to its mother's uterus shortly after birth. These stem cells possess the increased ability to adapt, revitalize and replenish the blood and immune system by developing into red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets.

Proponents of cord blood banking cite research that shows the potential of stem cells to help treat diseases such as cerebral palsy, anemia, leukemia, lymphoma and other cancers. They also point to ongoing clinical trials worldwide involving the use of stem cells to treat juvenile diabetes, brain injury, stroke, heart and liver disease, eye disorders, spinal cord injuries and auto-immune disorders, as well as in the healing of gum disease.

Cord blood banking advocate Dr. Ivan Fenech, a consultant for blood and marrow transplant at the Arjan Hospital and Medical Center, explained that "the stem cells from the cord blood, which are used for transplant or standard treatment options for patients with leukemia, are identical and will do not have the so-called 'immune cells,' making them ideal for treating patients with various diseases."

Newborn screening

Despite the promise of breastmilk and cord blood banking, we cannot fight what we cannot see. That is where newborn screening comes in. It includes various tests administered on newborn babies for a congenital metabolic disorder that may lead to mental retardation and even death if left untreated. The procedure involves a few drops of blood taken from the baby's heel and blotted on a special absorbent filter card. The blood is then sent for analysis to the laboratory for testing.

"Most babies look normal at birth. Through newborn screening, we can identify the likelihood of the child acquiring life-threatening disorders, and thus, take appropriate and immediate actions to prevent them (diseases)," said Dr. Ma Cecilia Alonzo, a clinical associate professor of the Department of Pediatrics of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital.

Increase fish oil in diet, doctors urge

By Charles E. Bakar

FOR A COUNTRY rich in fish resources and other marine-based rich foods, it is surprising to know that a lot of Filipinos are still not getting the proper nutrition.

"You may be surprised too, that this is true for a lot of Asian countries. What boosts the 'invisible' risks in many Asians in terms of nutrition is their Western counterparts, particularly when it comes to taking fresh fish to Omega-3 fatty acids," says Prof. Andrew Sinclair, chair of the Omega-3 Academy Asia and chair of Nutrition Science at the Deakin University's School of Medicine in Australia.

International guidelines recommend that an adult should consume 500 milligrams of fish oil per day. That can be achieved by eating 2-3 servings or only fish per week. For people with heart disease, double this amount is recommended or 1,000 mg of fish oil per day).

"What Asians needs to worry about is that we have one of the highest in saturated fats, sugar and salt. And according to the World Health Organization, processed foods are to blame for the sharp rise in obesity levels and chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, osteoporosis, osteoporosis and dental diseases," Sinclair says.

Low awareness

He adds that studies have shown that the awareness and understanding of Omega-3 among Asian consumers are significantly lower than their Western counterparts, particularly those living in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

"Consumer awareness in these countries has been high for over 20 years. Our Asian consumers should follow suit," Sinclair advises.

To help correct the situation, nonetheless, recently launched the Omega-3 Academy Asia, a professional body of medical experts in the Asia-Pacific region committed to increasing awareness and understanding of Omega-3.

The Omega-3 Academy Asia will be chaired by Sinclair, with members composed of Korea's Associate Prof. Sungsoon Park and Prof. Mihi Mahesworo, Thailand's Sathien Rungpanichasuk, a registered dietician, and from the Philippines, Dr. Tanong Ty-Willing, an endocrinologist, and Dr. Eugene Reyes, a cardiologist.

The Omega-3 Academy Asia will soon begin an awareness campaign on the Omega-3 intake of people living in Korea, Thailand and the Philippines, conducting new clinical research and reviewing existing data.

Nathalie Guarino, marketing manager of nutrition-event, which makes Centrum Fish Oil, a dietary supplement that contains omega-3 fatty acids docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), informed that the company's Consumer Health-care will also provide vital consumer and healthcare professional information and support to improve the health and well-being of people across Asia.

"Omega-3 fatty acid is important to our health. However, Omega-3 can't be made by the body so it needs to be obtained through our diets. Omega-3 fatty acids can be found in fresh fish or fish and plants with algal/fish sources of DHA being the highest quantities," Ty-Willing says.

However, Ty-Willing notes that modern diets diets are becoming increasingly consumer-based, with higher levels of saturated fats and decreasing amounts of fish, resulting in decreased Omega-3 intake.

Studies reveal that Filipinos are not getting the fish oil they need because the most popular fish dish, the humble sardines, are a very good source of Omega-3 and more often, it is in the form of dining on toys, which is highly salted.

Urgent need

Reyes notes the urgent need to re-educate Filipino consumers on Omega-3 to overcome current misperceptions.

"For example, only certain types of fresh saltwater and freshwater fish have high Omega-3 content, and salmon is not the most popular source. Omega-3 fatty acids DHA and EPA. Many consumers also don't know how much Omega-3 should be consumed to benefit their health. This is why we have launched the Omega-3 deadening days," Reyes says.

He adds that there is a growing body of evidence which suggests that Omega-3 can have a positive impact on heart health, joint issues and brain development and that Filipinos should aim at a very good intake of the recommended daily intake levels to optimize their health.

To address this challenge, experts suggest taking fish oil in its concentrated form, like the tablet-like Centrum capsule, which contains fish oil from three kinds of small fish: anchovies, mackerel and sardines, which all have a short lifespan, making them less exposed to pollutants and contamination in the sea.

Seeding blood protein production

DISCOVER

Maxine Sandra Balbin

A STAPLE food for half of the world's population, rice has been the focus of many studies, primarily to increase yields. In early October, the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization forecast that the total rice production worldwide for 2011 would exceed 480 million metric tons.

Chinese researchers have recently proposed to make rice fit a different kind of harvest, using the plant to enable the large-scale production of an important protein in the human blood. While highlighting their technique, the report also took note of safety and environmental concerns to be addressed in order to achieve the stated goal.

Global demand

Human serum albumin makes up more than half of the protein found in blood plasma, the yellowish liquid component in blood. The HSA protein transports blood-clotting factors and is used in treatments for severe illnesses, chronic malnutrition and burns, among other conditions. In the report by Ping Hu from China's Wuhan University and his colleagues, global demand for the HSA protein is about 500 tons annually. However, according to the World Health Organization, some 62 million blood donations are collected annually worldwide, which is not enough to meet the demand.

Previous studies have focused on developing transgenic-based, low-cost alternatives to producing the blood protein in large quantities. Researchers have developed production methods using bacteria, yeast and plants such as tobacco and potatoes, but the yields haven't been high enough for large-scale uses.

In looking at rice for what they called "molecular farming" to produce important proteins for pharmaceutical purposes, Hu and his colleagues point to the suitability of cereal crop seeds and the seeds' ability to store high levels of protein for long periods of time. Additionally, they said, rice has a fairly low risk of contaminating other plants outside of the laboratory and causing harm, instead of the intended therapeutic benefits.

This is not the first time people have turned to unobvious sources to produce needed compounds. For example, flu vaccines have been produced for decades in fertilized chicken eggs. Recent studies have shown the vaccine can be successfully produced in tobacco as well, which is good news for people with egg allergies who might otherwise risk harmful side effects from a flu shot.

For the study, Hu and his team genetically modified brown rice plants to produce the blood protein. Seeds from the stable transgenic plants were harvested and the protein was extracted and purified. Tests of the extracted protein on rats' lungs showed the rice-derived HSA protein "was equivalent to the native-derived HSA."

Researchers were able to produce 2.71 grams of the blood protein per kilogram of rice grown. They estimated that the world demand for the HSA protein would be satisfied by 500 tons, and a single metric ton is equivalent to a million grams. "Due to the high dosage of HSA in clinical applications," they noted, "large-scale production of [rice-derived protein] requires field production of transgenic rice."

Several challenges

The idea of using rice as a source of blood protein is not without challenges. Details that can make production more efficient—for example, the right food crop to grow to meet global demand. Safety and environmental concerns will need to be addressed to realize this plan, the researchers acknowledged in their conclusion.

The study was published online this week of Oct. 31 in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

E-mail the author at msalazar@inquirer.com

On menstrual migraines, pregnancy and strokes

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, M.D.

SEVERAL MONTHS ago, a young woman, mother, who was in her first trimester of pregnancy, was referred to me for a consult for a pounding headache, which was attributed to a high arterial blood pressure (BP). She visited my clinic for her first prenatal check-up. Even before her pregnancy, she would have migraine attacks, especially when she'd consider stress.

The character of the headache was classical migraine—throbbing pain felt on one side of the head, preceded sometimes a couple of hours by visual symptoms like seeing "weird white spots or stars or lines flashing in the air," as the patient described it. This is the typical aura of migraine headaches, usually felt half to one hour prior to the onset of the headache.

She answered the patient's problem is to be primarily due to her migraine, which caused her blood pressure to increase, rather than the other way around, that is, elevation of the BP causing the severe headache. It's important to distinguish this particular case in a pregnant woman because the treatment is totally different.

Women, generally, are more predisposed to migraine than men because of the influence of hormonal changes throughout the women's lifecycle. According to the literature, 70 percent of migraine sufferers are females. Some would have "menstrual migraine," installed because it occurs during and around the menstrual period, and this occurs in about one-third of the time in female sufferers.

Migraines are related to fluctuations in the levels of the female hormone estrogen during a woman's menstrual cycle, such that when estrogen levels drop immediately before the start of the menstrual flow, migraine may be experienced. During pregnancy, the considerably high levels of the female hormones is supposed to protect women from migraine attacks. However, the levels may not be high enough in the first trimester as they can still have migraine episodes such as in the patient we saw.

Migraine-free for now

The migraines usually wane or disappear during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy. Our patient is now in her last trimester, and she says she has been migraine-free for some time. I wanted her, though, that after delivery (post-partum), her migraines might recur due because of the abrupt fall-off of her estrogen levels.

Frequent migraine sufferers have to consult their physicians for more and safe, genius remedies during pregnancy because most of the pills they could take when not pregnant are contraindicated during pregnancy. Resisting therapies (pregnancy, nursing, menopause, oral contraceptive pills, hormonal replacement) should be tried first, and only if this does not work can some medicines be prescribed.

Preventive or prophylactic treatment is not recommended nor the usually agents that can be given during pregnancy are the beta-blockers (propranolol and propranolol but again, their possible side effects on the baby to the womb have to be weighed versus the benefit on the mother. They're usually given only at delivery to nursing migraine mothers.

There are now new research data, giving us a better understanding of the long-term impact on health of migraine headaches. It is now regarded as something that could be part of a much more complicated problem. Before, we used to think that migraine is a bothersome but otherwise benign or nonserious type of headache. Published data over the last few years suggest that it may not really be as harmless as it was believed to be.

Headache experts are now exploring the link between migraine and stroke, and they're saying that people who suffer from migraine headaches have an increased risk of stroke compared to those without migraine. In fact, there are cases reported of an actual stroke diagnosed during a typical migraine attack, especially during the so-called "throbbing headache," which is a much more severe attack of migraine.

Most migraine sufferers

Because migraine occurs more frequently in women, most migraine sufferers who develop stroke are women too. They're usually younger—less than 50 years of age, and many are not have the traditional risk factors for stroke, like diabetes, hypertension or cholesterol problems. However, the smoking and use of birth control pills have been identified as risk factors in these women.

The implicated mechanism is tightening of the brain arteries due to spasm, which can be severe enough to stop blood flow to some areas of the brain. When this is sustained for a relatively long period, this can lead to stroke.

For migraine sufferers in general, the occurrence of migraine and high blood pressure is also bad news. Earlier this year, during the heart meeting of Society of Hypertension in Australia, Dr. Enrico Agabiti Rosei from the University of Brescia in Italy presented the findings of their published study, which showed that patients with both hypertension and migraines headaches had a higher probability of a history of stroke than patients with high BP but no migraine.

"The prevalence of hypertension and migraine coincidentally is drastically rare, but doctors should pay attention when they see this, because it might help identify patients at risk for stroke. Migraine might be considered as a factor to be included in the score for risk of stroke," Dr. Rosei said.

Identifying this migraine sufferers "at risk" for stroke can sometimes be a dilemma. As mentioned earlier, the physician has to make sure that the patient is really hypertension with episodes of migraine, and not someone who has normal blood pressure and whose BP only increases during migraine attacks. Well, the practice of medicine can sometimes be tricky.

Roche provides cancer insurance to employees

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY Roche recently entered into an agreement with Philam Life and Medicard to provide cancer insurance to its employees. The Roche group cancer insurance program is part of the Embrace Unit cancer advocacy that Philam Life, top U health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and consumer partners have launched to make cancer insurance protection more accessible and affordable to the working Filipinos.

Roche is a global company that has played a pioneering role in healthcare innovation for more than 100 years. As an innovator of products and diagnostics for the detection, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, the company contributes to a broad range of fields in improving people's health and quality of life.

Preemptive stance

"The reality of cancer is here and we always should think of proactive ways to establish support systems during unfortunate times when one of our colleagues might have the challenge. We are providing our employees with the group cancer insurance program so as you can plan ahead, considering the high costs of cancer treatment, because getting individual coverage could be too expensive. This is part of Roche's employee welfare program that should come in to be very valuable at a time it is most needed. We will help employees save hundreds of thousands of pesos that they will fit spending out-of-pocket in the event of cancer incidence. The cancer insurance program will be included in our current HMO plan with Medicard," said Jose Boot, Roche human resources director.

Cancer is the third leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the Philippines. Leading types of cancer in breast, lung, cervix, liver, colon and rectum, stomach, oral cavity, ovary and leukemia. At present, there is low cancer prevention and most cancers are diagnosed at advanced stages. Thus cancer survival rates are low.

"Where Philam Life can leverage cancer has on-touched on the lives of Filipinos, we have worked to make our cancer product accessible to more people. Meeting the top five HMOs into the group cancer insurance program is the most effective and efficient way to achieve scale, considering this program will supplement the benefits of existing HMO benefits and will help ease the burden of expenses related to the treatment of cancer," said Irwin Go, Philam Life's vice president for corporate solutions.

"The Group Cancer Insurance program is a fitting dedicated partnership between Philam Life and the leading HMOs in the country. The program creates the leading institutions for expensive cancer treatment," he added.

Leading cause of death

According to the 2010 Philippine Cancer Facts and Estimates data published by the Philippine Cancer Society, cancer is the leading cause of death in the Philippines today, specifically breast cancer for women and lung cancer for both sexes. In fact, for lung cancer alone, more than 9,000 lives were claimed in 2004. As such, with the high incidence of cancer and rapid rate of death, the need for greater health coverage to include protection against cancer is more pronounced than ever.

"The group cancer insurance program will help address the needs of our employees partners and customers. Affordable and affordable premiums, employees are insured by as much as P1 million to fund cancer treatment. It offers higher coverage that private will not offer when diagnosed with cancer," said Dr. Ricky Moreno, Medicard president and CEO.

The group cancer insurance program is available through Philam Life's partner HMO companies—Intellicare, Maxicare, Medicard, PhilCare and GlobeCare.

Novartis, WHD partners announce 'Picture of Health' contest winners

NOVARTIS PHILIPPINES and its World Hypertension Day (WHD) partners recently announced the winners of the "Picture of Health: Healthy Blood Pressure and Physical Fitness" photo contest.

At least for three to bagged the top prize with his pancreatic photo showing two elderly women doing exercises against a black, draped cloth in an azure blue sky.

Second prize winner Edwin Pascual's photo of a family out running in the afternoon to grab one of light and shadow. Third prize winner Christian Ramos snapped a photo of a bicycle rider pausing a building and captured an eye-catching interplay between his figure and the surrounding.

The top 3 winners will receive P10,000, P15,000 and P 20,000 in cash prizes, respectively, in an awarding ceremony scheduled shortly.

"Picture of Health" was launched on May 17 as part of this year's WHD commemoration. The annual WHD celebration in the Philippines is an initiative of Society in Health Care Philippines and the Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH) in collaboration with the Philippine Heart Association (PHA), Philippine Society of Nephrology (PSN), Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism (PSEM) and the Department of Health (DOH).

The panel of judges was composed of Dr. Emmanuel Montales, DSH president; Dr. Isabelle Ongpipattanakul, PSH president; Dr. Delia Boquiren, PSN president; Dr. Gabriel Ansel Jr., PSEM president; Prince Cuevas, chief health information officer, DOH; Wendy Hontanosas, professional lifestyle journalist; Dr. Ramon Pangilinan, chief scientific officer, Novartis Philippines; and Thomas Shi, director, corporate brand management, Novartis International AG.

Better than cement

By Charles S. Rukan

CEMENT is a ubiquitous material that it is utilized in almost every stage of construction. It is used not only for joining building materials or in mixing/making chemicals but also applied as an adhesive for fitting items in walls, floors and countertops.

However, despite the tradition, builders now discover that cement may not be effective when it comes to mounting mirrors and tiles on tiled surfaces.

"Many builders now find adhesives as a better alternative than regular cement," said Jess Castillo, marketing manager for Forever Adhesives and Sealants.

She added that the company markets two types of adhesives: Forever Stone Adhesives and Forever Tile Adhesives.

"While Forever Tile Adhesive is effective for fixing most tiles on walls and floors, Forever Stone Adhesive is specially formulated for securing heavier materials such as granite, marble, travertine, limestone, bluestone and quartzite. Customers find that our products are stickier and easier to fasten and set than cement, which makes installation faster," Castillo explained.

Similar cement that may be used to adhere tiles to walls are Bostik Ceramic Flexible even if the concrete experiences movements or develops cracks as a result of ground movement in situations.

Castillo also noted that builders who utilized cement often end up with hollow spaces underneath the tiles.

"This is a result of poor workmanship known as 'lo-pak,' which results in loose tiles and air gaps under. Aside from the time-bomb effect, they usually give out hollow sound when tapped. The problem is, as one will be able to notice this unless one knocks on them (gives out a hollow sound) or a crack suddenly developed where it cracks by a blunt object," she said.

Another problem is moisture, which occurs when cement hardens. The excess water within the mixture goes to the surface causing, which leaves tiny pores scattered as the water evaporates. Moisture is usually on the edges of the tiles of blocks.

"If grout is used normally the migrating water from the mixture will not be able to escape and would cause the loosening of the tiles. With adhesives, the tiles remain moisture is managed much more effectively," Castillo said.

She added that with adhesives, applicators now have a premixed compound variety so the only thing installers need to do is mix the material and they no longer have to guess the right proportions for the effective bond.

She said that as more people realize the value of quality adhesives for their tile and stone finishes, the company continues to develop the best materials that not only prevents misbehaved repairs but also promotes the beauty of the finished structure for many years.

APPLYING adhesives offers a better option than cement as it prevents tile slippage and moisture in the surface.

Exclusivity within your reach at La Verti Residences

LA VERTI Residences is a two-tower high-rise residential condominium.

MANY CITY will always remain to prestige and still chance as one of the most ideal places to live, work, and play in the metro. While other urban centers, notably Makati, Ortigas, Quezon City and mostly recently, Taguig, have their own hubs for business, investment and residential living, Pasay continues to offer its own brand of urban living experience.

The rise of housing projects all over the city is a testament to the market demand for upgraded living conditions in line with 21st century living. Condominium complexes have then emerged as ideal homes for the growing number of residents and businesses, including those coming in from Cebu.

Nothing itself apart from the rest of the premier vertical homes available is DMCI Homes' La Verti Residences. Located between the bustling Taft Avenue and Roxas Blvd., La Verti Residences is home to two 40-story high-rise residential buildings that consist of studio, 1, 2 and 3 bedroom condominium units that are designed to fit various lifestyles, needs and budgets.

Affordable

The studio and 1-bedroom units, for instance, cater to parents looking for a "starter home" for their kids studying within the area...a place that's affordable without any compromise to comfort and security. Budding professionals will like, too, find these units chic and modern and served in a dense city environment. Catering to families, on the other hand, would find the 2- or 3-bedroom units a bit more to their liking as these offer a bit more space for each member of the family.

Aside from the comfortable and well-planned residential units, La Verti Residences offers its equally diverse mix of amenities and facilities that will enhance the overall value of the gated community.

Everyone can choose from water facilities (adult and kiddie pools), sports and fitness (basketball court, fitness gym, playground, game room and rideable room) or simply lounging around in the landscaped and open spaces spread across the property. There are even gazebos, function rooms, a Sky Lounge on the roof deck, and various spaces for get-togethers and meetings with family, friends and business associates.

Residents can likewise take comfort in the fact that they are living within a "green community," set within the urban locality of Pasay. That is as beyond the single 1800 hectare tract mark high-rise advantage, the innovative Luxtower Design technology. This unique provision in the building design allows the maximum entry of free-flowing Light (Natural and wind (ventilation) into the entire structure, providing residents with a refreshing ambiance even inside their building.

Through three-story openings on the side of the buildings, air and light penetrate the structure freely, making the hallways bright and calming instead of your typical stuffy and restrictive condo high rise. Ventilation is also ensured by every five levels, as indicated through the Sky Patio and central atriums that are both landscaped with lush greens and colorful plants, along with water features and sitting spaces, to add local commerce areas. Tall residents can enjoy.

Top-notch establishments

Beyond the premises, one will find a host of top-notch business, educational and commercial establishments not far off. The Makati CBD and Roxas Boulevard business areas are within the vicinity. SM Mall of Asia, the Asiaworld Complex, De La Salle University and College of St. Benilde and over 10 hotels are also within close kilometers for easy access. For students and commuters, they can just walk to the Gil Puyat LRT station, which is just a few minutes away, for convenient travel to different points alongside expressways and roads.

Eating out and shopping areas such as Robinson's Malate and SM Mall of Asia are just a ride away. The cultured set will rejoice at the thought of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), the International Museum and other centers of art and culture being nearby. And should a medical emergency arise, rest assured that the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) and Orthopedic Hospital are easily accessible (Orthopedic Hospital is at Barangka Ibaba, just a few minutes away).

And with DMCI Homes' Property Management services and Flexible Financing packages, La Verti Residences isn't just a reality—it's also within your reach for that utmost in exclusivity, security and breathtaking view of the metropolis that the entire valley.

La Verti Residences, located 1 km away from the De La Salle University, is a private condo community project of DMCI Homes—a company of innovative builders and engineering experts who develop modern-day living solutions for urban families.

DMCI Homes (www.dmcihomes.com) offers its customers the highest level of expertise and an strict adherence to global standards. Its corporate philosophy is anchored on a deep understanding that buying a house is more about investing in a better way of living. La Verti Residences is the perfect validation of this timely perspective. Thanks to this home-rich locale located community, residents can finally enjoy a more comfortable and meaningful way of life where they can feel and good to be home.

MONTICELLO VILLAS IN ILOILO

Pro-Friends offers more value-for-money homes

FIRST RATE housing developer Property Company of Friends Inc. (Pro-Friends) has once more cemented its position as one of the country's top real estate companies with Monticello Villas in Iloilo.

A 40-hectare subdivision located in Barangay Balabag, Pavia, Iloilo, Monticello Villas is just 15 minutes away from Iloilo City's bustling economic and Pasay Island. It is situated near the Iloilo International Airport and is also near local schools, health centers, banks, shops, leisure amenities and main transportation and routes.

Pro-Friends Monticello Villas caters to-your-house, perfect for 25- to 40-year-old locals of families from Iloilo and the surrounding areas, who prefer themselves on being smart and savvy "green buy" business.

Buyers can easily select the house and lot of their choice, depending on their needs, budget and lifestyle. The Thoreau single-attached house model that 2 bedrooms, with a provision for a one-car garage, suitable for start-up families. Its 3-bedroom, townhouse model has three bedrooms, with 2 provisions also for a one-car garage.

The project is designed to have amenities and facilities that include exclusive entrance gates, open basketball court, clubhouse, swimming pool, children's playground, 24-hour security, centralized sewage systems and concrete roads.

Pro-Friends is always ready to respond to the challenge of building and selling more value-for-money homes amid the high demand for housing supply in the country.

ISABELLA

Pro-Friends (www.pro-friends.com) is one of the country's fastest growing real estate developers known for its property developments in Central and Iloilo. It is the developer of Lancaster Estates and Bellefort Estates. The company has 30 ongoing projects and 52 completed and successful communities.

Editor Cesar D. Manzanas
PROPERTY

Bring in the great outdoors!

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Benzinger
Architect

Idyllic vacation homes are still best enjoyed when they make the most of our tropical climate and allow us to wallow in the natural elements that exist beyond the four walls of our dwelling place.

TWO AND a half months to Christmas. For months to summon the worst months of the year (or almost so)! Gloomy are weather chronicles the metro, dampens our spirits and creates havoc in the city—of the kind we can only hope for us long. The "ber" months bring the promise of cheerful chit-chat and the chance to spend more time enjoying the outdoors. It adds to the unmasking of a merry Christmas. With the northeast winds blowing, even the nice warm days of summer will be just right to spend the coolest.

My eagerly look forward to our holidays by the beaches (hey glorious messages from the urban grind, a time to play and just be. They are almost always connected to an out-of-town trip, and often to one's own or a borrowed second home. It is almost as if being in good outdoors further supports that feeling of, and longing for, liberation.

Opening our abode to the outdoors while in the middle of the city isn't quite ideal: it makes us vulnerable to pollutions, exposed to city noise, and to the unwanted views of our neighbors. Fortunately there are many developments at the fringes of the metro that favor the green and outdoor lifestyle in mind. A few weeks back, we took a short drive south and visited Ayala Land Premier's "Elinz."

Purposely planned as the gateway of the Nuvali's communities in Santa Rosa, Elinz has a density of six lots per hectare and showcases naturally rolling terrains, mature trees and views of the surrounding hills of Tagaytay and Silang. It even has a land conversion which, at 1.4 hectares, is almost equivalent to 20 percent of the community's land area.

Outdoor haven

While it's easy to go green and "outdoorsy" within the boundaries of your own property, what developments like Elinz deliver is a physical framework for true outdoor living. For an entire community to be an outdoor haven, its character must grow out from the existing terrain and be carefully thought through the following:

- the allotment of areas for development;
- the preservation of existing ecosystems with its flora and fauna;
- the practical design of "hard surfaces" such as roads and sidewalks (that they may be pedestrian-friendly and sensitive to the lifestyle patterns of an outdoor-living community); and,
- the guidance given to lot owners through the building restrictions.

Seemingly insignificant details like fence heights, vegetation on tree-cutting, building setbacks and other limitations also allow the natural climate—wind and its cooling effects—to permeate through the community and allow each home in the most positively attractive way as per mother nature's design.

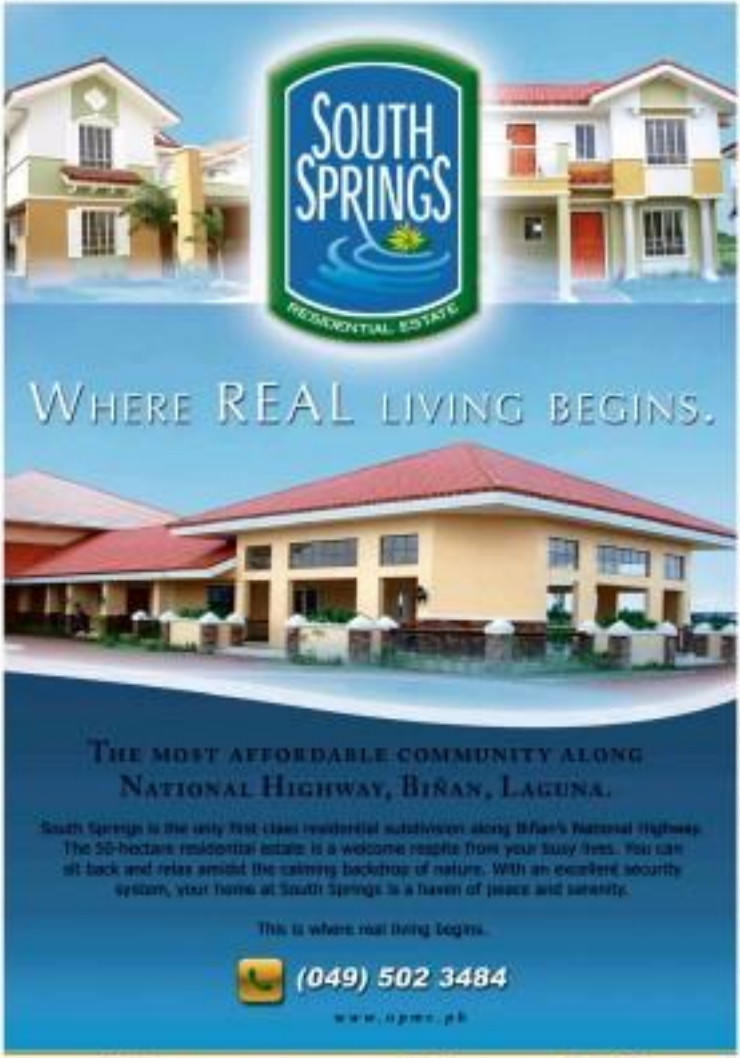
Setting limits on the buildable area per lot controls the human density of the site, and thus tilts the scale in favor of the unbuilt or natural environment systems, further capacitating the workings of the outdoor community concept.

Panorama of green views

What it also makes available to a panorama of green views and vistas that are experienced from the indoors. These communities provide the opportunity to strip a home bare of all its encumbrances and coverings, and promote more interior spaces, large windows, wraparound balconies, open-air bathrooms and open-air sunplaces. Its building envelope can be less fortified and isolated. It is so perforated that it almost seamlessly integrates into its setting. Aside from the visual, there are also the auditory and kinesthetic experiences—the rustling of leaves, singing of birds, the breeze on one's cheeks—that enhance the visual enjoyment of the outdoor experience.

I have been to communities in vacation spots like Batangas or Tagaytay that promote themselves to be outdoor-friendly, but have pleased their communities to badly homeowners are forced to build homes that are better suited for the city—small windows, opaque walls and oriented toward the indoors—all because the planning of the community and its support systems are just that—city-like—and not to contribute to the outdoor environment and how the human possibilities can make the most of it.

Our vacation homes are still best enjoyed when they make the most of our tropical climate and allow us to wallow in the natural elements that exist beyond the four walls of our dwelling place. Thin walls and roof eaves, we are protected from rain and direct sunlight, with tilt windows hot and cool air are allowed to flow, and with high ceilings heat is pulled upward and away from our bodies. The room upon the entrance, the better it adapts to our climate. And the more beautiful our outdoor settings, the more we'd like to draw its charming presence into our homes. And when drawing it physically is not possible, visually could very well be enough.



LIFESTYLE Travel

JRS EXPRESS
YOUR PARTNER ON TIME

A swingaround in paradise

A bit of Hollywood, spectacular vistas, and the only royal palace in the United States are some of the highlights of a quick trip to Hawaii

Text and photos
by Rose R. Jandoleo

WHILE the Philippines is made up of some 7,100 islands, this pocket of rayuma is a cluster of eight jewels located in the vast waters of the Pacific Ocean. This is Hawaii, the 50th state of America that is synonymous with sun, surf, beach, and wash-board abs. And you can enjoy a piece of that action for as low as $5500++ per person.

Philippine Airlines will bring you to Honolulu, Hawaii for a two-night getaway. Inclusive of roundtrip Metro Clark/Manila airport hotel-airport rest accommodations,

KAHALA Beach

THE ALOHA Tree

HALEIWA Harbor

From page A1

ning of the Waikiki beach (1795 to Iwa vessel). The historic hillside ning of O'ahu, in fact, starts at the Hilton and finishes just a little beyond its property.

The Hilton, with seven towers, is a sprawling community of endless vacationers with themed restaurants, bars, and shopping more for groupies, pros, cruise, fraternity, and more. It's also has a thrilling layout and is home to some programs, Dominguez, and other locals.

20 feet is zero

Most readers prefer the Waikiki strip, since the water only gets to a just over (3 ft. Waves on the other side of the island, the North Shore—notorious for having claimed the lives of many ad- evaluation makers—range up to over 20 feet.

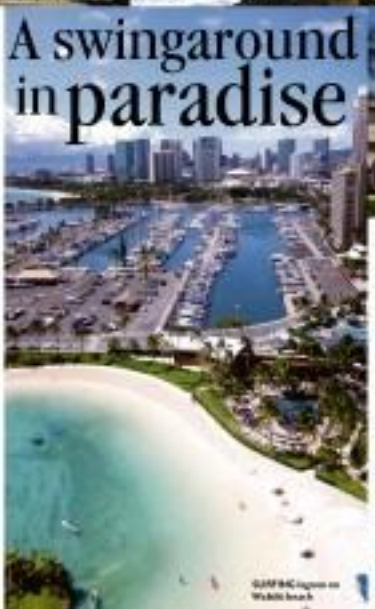
Hilton is also the place for the ar- chaeic Blue Waikiki, a weekend of surfin, Mat Cannon, rocks, and music and ever especially prized by a bartender he (it's opened post in 1987, the King of Rock Elvis Presley.

The Fortigan road also includes lu- nels such as Aqua Moshi Sho Court ($$$$+ 4) and Waiola Beach (Hawai- ston, $$$$++), and upper market ac- commodations like the Outrigger, Mar- riott, Royal Sonesta, and Sheraton.

"I used to be that Filipino stayed at the homes of their relatives and friends while on vacation," said Waikiki resort director for sales Loreta Hano. "So even better deal for vacationing Filipino families, children under 17 years old stay for free at Waikiki Resort. Today, however, we are slowly seeing a change in that behavior, as we see them more and more checking into ho- tels."

For more info visit www.philip- pinesbeyou.com, or call 808, reservations at 855.8888, 632.8403.91, or 09212229006. The Swingaround ends

A swingaround in paradise


GLIDING bigtime on Waikiki beach

DUKE made history by "Hawaii Five-O," King Kamehameha

Day 10 like you

Part of the package is the Pearl Har- bor tour. Bombed by the Japanese on Dec. 7, 1941, a memorial now stands hovering over 1,400 American soldiers who perished during the attack.

A must-do at the Pearl Harbor is a ferry ride next to the sunken battle- ship, the USS Arizona. Boats to this memorial have a glass platform where visitors can view the remains of the battleship. A graveyard under the sea, the USS Arizona now rests peacefully along with its fallen soldiers at the seabed.

"The Hawaiian government originally wanted to raise the USS Arizona. But since many people died trying to bring the ship back to dry land, they de- cided to leave it in peace," said Sally Lai, Hawaiian Tours Taiwan liaison.

A city tour of downtown Honolulu will see the theme music of "Hawaii Five-0" via a loop in tour bound to you until hear your eyes on picture-marks- movie by the TV show starring them is the gold-level roster of Iliny Kane- hemeha.

Across the street is a historical Ma- sonic Landmark, the Iolani Palace, re- stored to its former glory. The official residence of the Hawaiian monarchy and built in 1882, its prisoner makes Hawaii the only state in the US with a royal palace.

And perhaps, too, the only holiday- to-Chinatown in the world can be seen in Honolulu...a core of Chinese restau- rants hosting the names Jade, Golden, Treasure, Harvest, Crystal to combina- tions of their like a sidewalk frequent- ed mostly by wandering pigeons.

Save for the shrine of Jun Fat Sen, an early Chinese settler, and a handful of colorful Chinese men parting the day with a game of chess on a public park, Chinatown Honolulu offers certainly lacks the life and color of Chinatowns we've seen. Perhaps we visited on the wrong day?

THE DR. SUN Road leads to right across Chinatown

Dinner cruise

A night of music and dance can also be yours if you take the optional $62 luau dinner cruise. Party the night away aboard the world's largest Polynesian catamaran, where you will be treated to a traditional Polynesian dance show. There's also a buffet spread designed to cover an entire village of overseas tourists.

The star of the cruise, however, is the entertaining musical and hands-on- ing collection of the O'ahu cityscape by the shoreline—an assemblage of ho- tels, resorts, condominiums, and buildings all the way to the concert volcano called Diamond Head, glowing softly into the evening.

Hollywood in Honolulu is the Kahala Beach, part of the Transpacific package. The sprawling 4,000-acre property has been the set of many blockbuster movies and hit TV shows, including Starsky Push," "The Pest 50 Dates," "Windtalkers," "Lei," "Jurassic Park," "Mighty Joe Young," and many more.

Pest acquired by Dr. Gerrit Judd in 1865, it is now run by Joe Morgan. Morgan, the sixth generation descen- dant of Dr. Judd, reports the sacred history of the property will need to be a spiritual place in ancient Hawaii, when the state was still divided into different kingdoms. Instead of making a profit out of it by commercializing the area, Morgan is one of Hawaii's advocates of conservation.

"The way to business here very good people. They take good care of the property. It might seem like they're do- ing everything and they really don't. We're an agricultural land so it's not used for the land to be planted on and replanted," Morgan said.

"Honolulu," he said, is so far the biggest movie with the most of- fices—272 major explosions and 700 crews. The production crew took over an entire valley for six weeks, and at one point produced a 20-minute serve for three weeks since they needed to shoot the scene during early dawn.

Blue-eyed island host gave us a fas- tastic story of the Hawaiian coastline and more. Ride down Hawaiian Bay toward the popular tourist attraction called Hon- olulu, where the sea crashes against the rocky cliffs of the coast in a dramatic display of water splashing.

Then hop on to the Pali Lup for a spectacular view of valleys and rolling hills. The idyllic island lands and ethereal as you drive at the magnifi- cent splendor of Modern Hawaii as an unforgettable experience.

WEIGHING the options of The Kahala, [illegible] serves as Segway stopping to take photos of Iolani Palace

Must-see, must-do in Honolulu

GIT at "Lost" [illegible] burger

- Feast on the "Obama" burger made famous by President Barack Oba- ma, the one he always orders when he's in town: the half-pound cheeseburger at Kua 'Aina in Ka'Waiki Center and in Kahala. Definitely one of the best burgers in Hawaii.
- The Honolulu Cookie Company, the pineapple-shaped shortbread cookies so adored for pasalubong, in Honolulu Dipped Macadamia Butter Macadamia, Kona Chocolate Kona Coffee, Coconut, and many more flavors.
- Ala Kahila, the famous local fashion store, to gawk at the largest Hawaiian shirt (size 4000XL). Good place to get souvenirs, floral island tee-shirt, coffee, chocolates, all-natural dog treats (with pineapple, of course via letter), even an authentic Hello Kitty sporting a deep tan and a green skirt.
- Honolulu Chocolate Company at the Ward Center for some yummy unique treats.
- Ruhara Premium Outlets, where you can find Coach, Banana Re- public, Bonnyrit New York, Bebe, Calvin Klein, Polo Ralph Lauren, Tom- my Hilfiger, Stuarina's, and more.
- Polynesian Cultural Center, an hour's drive from Waikiki, where you can watch a canoe pageant featuring the different regions of the people of Hawaii, and immerse yourself in an on-spot Polynesian dance lessons and learn about Hawaii's history in the most interactive way.
- Magic of Polynesia dinner show with master illusionist Jonnie- mikaera at the Holiday Inn Waikiki Beachcomber Resort. Highly enter- taining, as you watch him make cars levitate then disappear. The audi- ence participation makes it even more fun.
- Waikiki Submarine dives up to 100 feet while you're seated comfort- ably in an air-conditioned vessel.
- Bobby-smith outlay: The Kahala, the posh hotel which does Bar Design Grooms, Elizabeth Taylor, and Barbara Walters, more to stay. The Modern Honolulu, an ion Edinger-designed boutique hotel with a relaxed and fashionable feel (Joel Manolatos's theme creations).

Anna Archibong

[FROM top] PENGUINS at Hilton; welcome to Jurassic Park; reception at The Modern Honolulu; pool at The Kahala

Thinking green in Korea

A visit to the Land of the Morning Calm for a regional conservation forum offers some sobering insights on climate change

A CLAMP lift in the "smart city" of Incheon

THE author (center) with his brother Javier and the youth delegates

By Antonio M. Diapards
Contributor

WHAT is often remembered in Incheon, South Korea, is the daring landing of General Douglas MacArthur during the Korean conflict. Today, Incheon has been transformed from a city mentioned into what they call a "smart city" with towering buildings and wide thoroughfares with bike and pedestrian lanes.

The land of the Morning Calm has come along way although I missed most if the good general would have appreciated its tactical situation.

Incheon recently hosted the 38th IUCN Regional Conservation Forum, with the theme of "Greening Asia's Growth," in preparation for the World Conservation Congress to be held on Jeju Island in September 2012.

The event was attended by over 570 participants from 18 countries—the largest Conservation Forum yet. It was opened by Anita Widjaja-Lofvenz and Dr. Ashok Kosbla, the former general and president, respectively, of IUCN for the International Union for Conservation of Nature, which helps in the formulation of pragmatic solutions to the world's most urgent problems concerning the various resources and development.

Lasko Inc. from Incheon, Korea's third largest city, said we would not help but notice how the mountains had retained their forest cover.

Everything was lush and green. Development has mainly been focused on reclamation and urban areas.

SEAGULLS over the waters of Busan

Some of the participants were no ordinary conferences. It became evident that nature conservation issued on natural law had been put on the back burner, with the world economy continuing its downward swing and funding for conservation becoming more scarce.

Meanwhile, the rate of extinction of various species and the hotel biodiversity have risen. Earth's ecosystems are degraded, and among and relative vulnerability towards as the opposite for growth exponentially increases and the "business as usual" attitude continues to reign.

More plan needed

I am afraid of what the future has in store for us with the present development model. It is time for a new plan to surface, with ecology placing a major role in its economics.

Real "green growth" is a must. It's time to do away with the politics of short-term and narrow economics. We need to pay more attention to social and ecological systems and rethink the economics from a transitional perspective.

But we enjoyed our visit to South Korea, with its rich culture and hardworking people. I will treasure the good memories and look forward to returning to the country next year for the conference on Jeju Island.

We were happy to attend the youth forum, where the children from Daejeon showed how they play a vital role in conservation. Indeed, it is time to pass the torch.

The author is the president of the Ecological Society of the Philippines, a member of the IUCN.

Travel Briefs

CATHAY PACIFIC unveiled its latest range of travel kits for passengers, which features a contemporary design by renowned French fashion brand agnès b. and contains, for the first time, biodegradable products.

The airline's female passengers traveling in Business Class will receive the new travel kit in either black or light blue, with polka dots printing, while the new Business Class travel kit for male passengers will be available in either gray or dark blue with agnès b.'s stylish lizard print. The brand's logo is also incorporated into an array of accessories, to modernistically and uniquely add to and to enhance the total value of the kit.

The kits feature products from Monet, one of the USA's foremost authorities on skincare, which have been specially selected to protect passengers' skin from the flight environment and travel stress. Both travel kits will include an agnès b. pouch. Monet Citrus Lip Protector SPF 15, socks, mouthwash, earplugs, shoe horn (for men) or cotton pads (for women), an eye shade, and a dental set, which includes a biodegradable toothbrush. All-citrus pulp, this travel kit for men will include Monet Cleansing Water.

The disposable toothbrush and shoe horn in these kits are made mainly from corn starch and cellulose, which is biodegradable, recyclable, and use fewer resources in its production.

For flights out of and into Hong Kong, travel kits will feature additional Monet products including Skin Perfecting Lotion for both kits; Perfecting Night Cream for the men's kit; and Hydrating Toner, Pomegranate Body Lotion, and Hydro-Dynamic Ultimate Moisturizer for the women's kit.

Delights from around the world before Christmas

Since the "bon voyages" series, we cannot help but feel that Christmas is just around the corner — and what better way to be merry than to indulge in the delights of eating, drinking, and eating some more?

Celebrate the longest yuletide season with delectable cuisines from around the globe. From Filipino, Mediterranean, Japanese and American, to French specialties, get a taste of world-class dining at the country's first integrated luxury hub, Resorts World Manila.

Experience Shinsengumi-style spring roll at Marriott Grill, Singapore-style crab and Malaysian chicken at Tao Yuan, or roast Iberian pork potatoes a la pobre and USDA-grade prime beef at Bistro Filipino at Circa Restaurant. Over here at the Spanish cuisines and tables make use of "Three delicacies are served at the unique Italian Japanese Korean restaurant, Cascades. There's also Australian Asian restaurant Nordie where to eat merry noodle bowl's soul, with the freshest and tastiest noodles imported from China, Singapore and Malaysia.

Definitely you won't get enough of the Cirque Asia, Resorts World Manila, and Star Cruises Center restaurants to get a sticker. Collect as many stickers to win:

+ 20 Stickers — one Newport Cinema Gift Card and one raffle ticket
+ 40 stickers — one P500 Dine & Play Voucher and one raffle ticket
+ 60 stickers — one Balcony ticket to a Resorts World Manila-produced show at Newport Performing Arts Theater (RWM Concert Series or "The Sound of Music") and one raffle ticket
+ 80 stickers — all three prizes mentioned above, plus one raffle ticket

Promo runs until Dec. 31.

Halloween treat

There are no tricks but all great treats at Richmonde Hotel Ortigas from Oct. 29 to 31. Enjoy the comfort of Richmonde's well-appointed guest rooms for as low as P 3,900 nett for a Superior Room and P 4,300 nett for a Junior Suite. The package includes breakfast buffet feast for two at the stylish Richmonde Café and complimentary round of the Health Club facilities, such as the gym, sauna and heated indoor pool. What's more, Superior Room bookings automatically get upgraded to Executive Rooms! For reservations, call 6387777.

Special rate for Filipino residents

Avail now of Boracay Garden Resort's special promo for Filipino residents and enjoy a three-day-two-night stay for only P12,000 net per person. The package is based on single occupancy in a deluxe room and includes a daily buffet breakfast and set dinner as well as round-trip transfers via Caticlan. Promo runs until Nov. 15. The resort boasts of a Triple A rating and has 200 rooms with charming and elegant interiors. It has a newly opened all-glass restaurant, Bon Café, where guests can feast on local and international gastronomic delights. Call Boracay Garden Resort's Island's Booking Office at (02) 3631111 or email reservation@boracaygardens.com.ph.

Buying bus tickets online just got easier

Victory Liner has opened up a hassle-free, Internet-based approach to ordering tickets.

Since its introduction, Victory Liner's Ticket Order service (www.victoryliner.com) has provided passengers the flexibility to secure tickets from the comforts of their own homes. Order your ticket online, pay it at any Metrobank branch, and wait for ticket delivery.

Now, the country's biggest and most trusted bus company has again taken up a notch, in addition to the Metrobank bank deposit, travelers can pay for their tickets via PayPal and Banknet ATM debit. Once passengers reorder the bus tickets online, they will receive from Victory Liner, they can pay three ways.

Through over the counter deposit in any Metrobank Branch, passengers can fill up the Payment Slip form, the travelers who do not want to be bothered with queuing in the bank, they can pay via PayPal or Banknet ATM Direct Debit. In their confirmation e-mail, passengers will be sent a Banknet ATM payment link. The link will send a PayPal invoice to the passenger and the passenger will then pay for the invoice.

Those without credit cards (a requirement for PayPal method) can choose to pay via Banknet ATM Direct Debit. In their confirmation e-mail, passengers will be sent a Banknet ATM payment link. The link will open up to a page where passengers can simply select their Banknet bank, enter their ATM card and PIN number, and submit payment. Once payment is validated, all they have to do is wait for their bus tickets to arrive — no lines, no hassles at all.

Victory Liner assures customers that safety measures are involved and every financial transaction is protected against fraud and identity theft. Log on to www.victoryliner.com.

cherry mobile
Celebrate your lifestyle

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

super LIFESTYLE

12 Cherrys of Christmas

The 12 Cherrys of Christmas is a treat that we bring. Affordable phones from DUAL to TRIPLE SIM. With discounts and freebies in store for you. It's our way of wishing a Cherry Christmas to you!

P799
P1,299
P999?
P1,799
P1,999
P1,999
P1,999
P2,499
P2,499
P3,499
P3,499
FREE G2

Humanitarian troubadours

After a barrage of concerts and events, October couldn't have ended on a sweeter note as Jason Mraz and Taca Rivera serenaded Manila in a special acoustic concert

DYNAMIC DUO. The grooves of longtime friend and percussionist Nicol "Taca" Rivera are the perfect companion to Jason Mraz's flawless vocals and acoustic guitar playing.

By Angela V. Ignacio
Contributor

YOU'RE lying down on the beach, eyes blissfully closed, the sun pleasantly hot on your skin. Jason Mraz's voice is as cool as a summer breeze, with Nicol "Taca" Rivera's gentle yet steady Djembe grooves calming the frenetic pace of your heart and mind.

You open your eyes, and you're suddenly transported back to reality; for one disorienting moment, the cozy, chic ear atmosphere in the SMART Araneta Coliseum makes you think you're in a coffee shop. A very big, packed coffee shop, that is.

The venue was filled to bursting, as small feet for someone who's already toppled. Manila with his music several times in the past few years. Maybe it helped that ticket prices were actually reasonably priced, compared to the other concerts that week. Then there's the fact that it's the last hurrah before weekends ends, and right smack in the middle of a rare four-day weekend to boot.

But whatever it is, for many concert-loving Pinoys, there was no better way to end an insanely eventful month than to unwind at the luminous yet troubadour's silhouette. (It last Oct. 30. Intimate or arena-sized, the venue made no difference.

Sporting a board and a plain black shirt with "Peace" written on it, longish hair held back by a headband, Jason was an irresistible in the spotlight as he probably is in his own bedroom, barefoot and sitting while lounging. Stepped down to his acoustic guitars, he was completely in his element. And, together with his bassist Buddy's flawless percussion playing, he was simply unstoppable.

The star-studded Manila concert is part of the dynamic duo's global acoustic jam series that celebrates the 20th anniversary of their classic indie album, "Live at Java Joe's." The first half of the 22-song super

BDO

Elite Credit Cards

Experience paradise with your precious metals.

Enjoy Misibis Bay at P17,000nett per person for 3D/2N with full board meals.

Your precious metals.

www.bdo.com.ph

A good, good night with the Black Eyed Peas

Screw my two left feet. You didn't need to be an expert dancer or singer to have fun at their concert

By Angelo V. Ignacio
Contributor

DANCE concerts aren't really my thing. To be honest, I'd rather sing my lungs out at a gig where nobody cared about being out of tune than attempt it self-conscious sway-and-shuffle routine at a show where everyone pretend like they had no flaws.

But for this one, I had a personal agenda to accomplish at it was. I badly wanted to hear "I Gotta Feeling" live, the thought of letting loose and losing f*ks to my silliest feel-good song with thousands of similarly happy people was just too enticing to ignore.

And, come on, it's the Black Eyed Peas. Enough said.

Partying in outer space

The crowd that gathered at the SM Mall Of Asia Concert Grounds on Sep. 25 was estimated at a whopping 50,000, most of whom were kids taking advantage of non-break season as well as yuppies who needed to release some stress in the middle of a busy workweek. After all, it's really no secret that the Peas look and sound amazing live.

But to actually experience it firsthand was just mind-blowing. Apl.de.ap wasn't kidding when he said during his press tea weeks before the concert that he and the other Peas... will.i.am, Fergie and Taboo... were pulling out all the stops for this concert.

With dazzling LED costumes, a gazillion strobe lights and even a hydraulic DJ platform, it was as if they were throwing a giant party in outer space, and everyone on earth was invited.

Dancing, chilling out

After several beat-new-shit-included Boa, sexy girl group-Bleth, the quintet got the party started with "Rock That Body," keeping the momentum rolling with current club staples "Meet Me Halfway," "Imma Be" and "Don't Stop The Beat," to end as their smokin' dance hit "Don't Phunk With My Heart" and "Pump It." In between Fergie's unhinged booty-shaking and Taboo's hotshock break-dance moves, will.i.am treated the crowd with his raunp-opted rapping and performed his hit set-wanting a cyborg costume.

The set was also peppered with chill-out groove music like "Just Can't Get Enough" and a surprising number, "Iconic And Jesus," from the group's unmoistened, pre-Fergie days. For her solo, Fergie came out looking like an unrepentantic Barbie doll in a posh's LED-studded dress, after doing a Bijou Jones-in-her-mixed-termination-of-sorts by her single "Big Girls Don't Cry." Ironically enough, she got a little teary-eyed herself at the end of the concert.)

Touching moments

Another praiseworthy thing about the Peas is that they also know how to put their fame and talents to good use by promoting social awareness and supporting humanitarian causes. During "Where It The Love," they made the crowd turn heavens with their hands and voice them up high. The unsurprised gesture was a shiver to me, more so when the tone of thousands of little hearts were caught on camera.

But it was apl.de.ap's solo set that was the most emotionally charged part of the concert. His voice broke when he dedicated "The Apl Song" to his two deceased family-est and to his Filipino medley, where he mixed everything to "Bus already was a celebrity who was proud of his roots to country have humble they were, and what support for his countrymen was globally recognized.

He also took the opportunity to launch his new "We Can Be Anything" campaign, which aims to help build classrooms all over the country. That's why it wasn't a big surprise that DJ Ant-decided to the Philippines's Henry Thomas made a special appearance to announce that he's much up for personal advisor in promoting education among the Filipino youth.

Best for last

Musically, the group saved the best for last. The party mood was back in full-throttle when they started the encore set with "Boom Boom Pow" followed by their hottest single to date, "The Time (Dirt Bit)." By this time, I had a pretty good feeling that the last song was going to be, and I was right. As soon as the familiar synth beat-heard intro started, the massive crowd let out a collective explosive whoop.

It was my favorite live. You didn't need to be an expert dancer or singer to have fun at a concert. "I gotta feelings, that tonight's gonna be a good night," we yelled along with the whole and the audience, the massive crowd-ing like there's no tomorrow. And it was.

You know how in every concert, there's that one defining moment that puts you on an incredible high and makes you feel so glad you came to watch? For me, that was it, and it was probably the same for many others, especially since a teary-eyed Fergie announced at the end that they'd be going on a creative hiatus.

He won't be owning them professionals for a while, and I was glad I was able to have that moment with I could.

"Black Eyed Peas Live in Manila" was brought to you by Music Entertainment International and Paterno Interactive.

SUPER SPOTLIGHT

Blush is back!

SINGLE Bar Black Eyed Peas were getting seemingly no rest. They entered the world's first Pan-Asian girl group last year, showing the Pinay crowd that they're more than just pretty young things. Bleth, composed of Ji Hee Lee (Korea), Victoria Chan (China), Michelle Bautista (Indo), Kahnee Dunja (Japan), and our very own Angeli Pinon, rendezvous at the press during Dick Manila launch a few months ago with their amazing vocals and quirky personalities. So what was the quintet hoop up to since then?

The girls have set up shop in Los Angeles, California, earning a niche in the Western market with their pop-dance/R&B repertoire. So far, they've done a pretty good job—their single "Sisterhood," which features Snoop Dogg, shot up to 40 on the U.S. Billboard Dance Charts, and they've performed their song live on the hit reality show "Do You Think You Can Dance" with the rapper himself. Just recently, they came back to Manila to open for the Black Eyed Peas, and they've also performed a couple of their songs during Thai superstar Marie Mayne's first commercial-free Penthouse at the PICC.

The Peas's pace host for all things pop strolled in their advantage, because they've apparently charmed Marie's fans as well. Angeli, a fan from Marikina, drew the most cheers from the crowd, being the end of their performance, each girl reciting her theme of sisterhood advice-s. Jhen here-most climbed up the stage to take their photos, Ichi-an with them, and the delight in the girls' faces was plain to see.

Trying to break into both Western and Asian markets at the same time is no joke, but if the warm reception they got from Pinoys is a cool, they're on-stage (or country's) cinque to touching their goal. Keep it up, girls!

Angelo V. Ignacio

Humanitarian troubadours

From page D1

tune set the dreamy, chillout mood for the rest of the evening. He set started with Jason Mraz's favorite tracks like "She's The Bomb," "It It Kills Me" and "A Beautiful Mess," interspersed with snippets of beloved standards like The Beatles' "Across The Universe" and Frank Sinatra's "Fly Me To The Moon."

But the moment he broke into the old favorite "You And I Both," the crowd was instantly on its feet. This was followed by the most phenomenal number of the night: "The Remedy (I Won't Worry)" segueing into Oasis' "Wonderwall." It was as if the crowd awoke from a collective trance, singing one sentence and heartily singing along in tribute to the hippie days of acoustic music. That was a great stress-busting experience if there ever was one.

Wordplay-ists

Like the wordplay rules he's known to be, Jason entertained the crowd with the countless tricks up his sleeve, giddily scribbling whatsoever he got the chance. He could rap as curses demonstrate and it would still sound good. He even sang a bit of opera and playfully engaged in vocal collaborations with the crowd.

The last, yet certainly not, putting up because that read "Look for Joey" and "Mondo Beach." It was sweet to see people giving due credit to Jason's indispensable wingman. Before the encore, the entire coliseum literally resulted with the fans' collective swaying up in the bleachers, and the duo gladly indulged the crowd with four more songs.

The "humanitarian hippie" took the concert-formally as Jason announced his advocacy for MTV EXIT (End Exploitation and Trafficking, an anti-human trafficking awareness campaign) by quipping, "Real men don't buy girls." The slogan was a reference to another cause that he supports—the Dream and Aiming (DMA) foundation, an individual-an dancey movement founded by the Bedrosian power couple.

The crowd's surprise was also evident when he dedicated "Warrior" to a certain Cecilia, who turns-a-really Cecilia Flores-Oebanda, founder and director of the Visayan Forum Foundation (VF) and one of the world's foremost advocates in the fight against modern-day slavery.

Of course, the evening wouldn't be complete without Jason performing the multi-platinum hit single and everyone's feel-good song "I'm Yours," amidst deafening cheers and heartfelt singing. Truly, love was all around; it felt more like Christmas or Valentine's Day instead of Halloween, what with the abundance of good vibes filling up the entire arena.

Jason and Toca, Manila is yours. Hope you bring more than one bucketful to dance to the audience next time.

"Jason Mraz live in Manila: A Special Acoustic Evening with Toca Rivera" was brought to you by MAED Entertainment.

'I look at my painting as a form of prayer'

L. De Guzman is nearly blind from a rare disease, but putting colors on canvas helps him see and feel better

By Ruben Jang
Lunar Baylor

AFTER talking a nap one day in 2008, L. De Guzman woke up to discover he couldn't see, among other frightening things. He had an attack of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS), a severe allergic reaction to medication that causes skin to die and shed.

"The skin of my eyelids fused with my eyeballs," he says. "My corneas were bad scars, my vision had blotches and it felt like there was something covering my sight."

After three months of recovery he got involved with developmental work with a non-government organization.

Artificial tears

"It was hard because I had to get used to sunlight and the glare of a computer monitor. My skin was super sensitive because some layers hadn't grown back yet. My fingertips were still quite hard-skin."

He's been working and living a normal life as possible since then. Unfortunately, in February this year, his eyes stopped producing tears.

"I was blind from corneal ulcers in April...not blind because it was dark, like what happened after I got SJS, but blind because of all the light entering my eyes because I had no tears."

He has to put artificial tears in his eyes every half-hour, but only because of tube-plugged ducts, into his eyes drainage system. If he's not, he had to get artificial tears every few minutes.

Painting

"I can't use when the temperature's hot, when it's windy where the eyedrops dry up, etc. When the weather is nice and I've got my eyedrops in, I can see, but my view is like a Diego Lorna canvas. There are shadows on the sides and it's all blurry."

He locked most of the time inside the house because what's the only place where I can control these factors."

"The implants and medication made my vision manageable. I was able to paint again starting June, amazingly, when I paint, my eyes can focus on the paint. I'm working on."

De Guzman will have his first solo exhibit, "A Tale of Muses and Seasons," featuring 23 pieces, at Fruitful's Restaurant.

"It was my idea to have an exhibit. I ventured to help my family with my medical bills and to live a normal life. I was an Cubao Expo and my college friend Ping Medina saw me and offered the use of his restaurants for the shows."

Born and raised in Manila by his grandparents, De Guzman's love for painting began when his grandmother gave him a watercolor set at the age of four. He's self-taught, inspired by paintings from the Renaissance and Post-Impressionist periods, as well as by subject matters.

Look again

"The subject of the pieces revolves around my illness. The muses were inside my head from the early part of this year, when my eyesight deteriorated, with me cooped up in darkness at home. I had no choice but to sleep and sleep because I couldn't do anything else."

"I was so depressed. I was seriously contemplating suicide. I really wished I had died back in 2008. I thought that life with a broken body like this is a life not worth living."

"With painting, I saw that I could still do something I loved. When I paint, I forget all my bodily aches. I feel at peace with myself, my situation and my Creator. I look at my painting as a form of prayer. I can see that there is still something in life. And it branches out into appreciation for others, like the love of my family, my friends."

"One time, I tried to look at the morning sky with my naked eyes, without sunglasses and eyedrops, and I saw the most beautiful sky and I wished I could see more, life begins to have meaning again. I didn't want to give up."

Inspiration

"I can paint at my own pace. Sometimes I don't paint when I'm having a bad day, when my body is out of sorts. But when I get the chance of feeling particularly good on a day, I paint."

"I do a lot of Asian-inspired watercolors, crafts, like Japanese masks, but the bulk are flower paintings in acrylic. Flower paintings helped me get through the phase when my body started feeling weak again. All pieces are done in acrylic...a generic medium because it doesn't have too much fumes that hurt my eyes."

"I hope people will like 'my babies.' I poured my energy, time, emotions and dreams into those works."

"It's easy for people to go through what I'm going through and for them to realize when I've realized," De Guzman adds. "I want my paintings to show that, given the harsh reality of life, people should stop, wait, all their selfishness and negativity, and try to regain focus of their inner voice. They should take another look at what's really inside. They'll see beauty, truth, love—the basic things that make life worth living, the things that make us truly human."

"A Tale of Muses and Seasons" runs from 5-25 in Fruitful's Restaurant, Cubao Expo, Araneta Center Quezon City. Call 0920-9082819. Visit lduguzman.wordpress.com.

Back in the saddle—or how I ended up biking around the metro

Once, in Makati's red-light district, a charming young lady (who was apparently gifted with a penis) yelled at me, 'Koya, paangkas naman!'

By Patrick Justin J. Lagsa
Contributor

IT WILL only take a day to get around Makati and check out the sights, but I wanted the city I was talking about the Central Business District and its surrounding areas. Most people who have been to Manhattan can easily compare New York's streets to our own Dela Costa, Paseo de Roxas or Salcedo.

For those who enjoy cruising at leisure on two wheels, Makati offers a little bit of everything that would make the cruiser and sport aficionado's heart tic.

I love walking. My underwater-assisted walks motivate me to skip the comforts of my air-conditioned cubicle in the bone-shaking ride-me experience in a pedicab. Walking around the metro has opened my eyes to things that we normally fail to notice when we go on our four- of public transportation—discovering hidden treasures like Starry and Apartment 78.

But, as Cinderella's tardiness made us restless, all good things must come to an end. I grew tired of just walking around and observing the way pass the Burgos-covered rush hour crowd. Walking around in my P500 nanggo-bought leather shoes not only got uncomfortable painful, it wore out my shoes.

Last ride

I needed a way to get around the city that would keep our fit and my cute purse fat. My girlfriend said, "Why don't you get a bike?"

Gobeville dismissed my dad's old mountain bike (SEEN). The last time I used it was 14 years ago. I took it for a test ride when I finally realized that my fortune was more important than how free riding on that bike made me feel. This hasn't been too kind to it. The Panasonic tires were deflated, rust surrounded the scratches of to chainsaw back, its eyeborns drive-train was pretty much useless, the pedals' spindles were stuck, the shifters weren't working, and the cables for the cantilever brakes had lost their pulling strength.

But my enthusiasm for cycles got the bike back on my toddler who took him. The bolts and bottom brackets were repacked and given all that needed lubrication. Since Victor Frankenstein never said it in Mullen's novel, it wasn't plagiarism when I exclaimed, "It's alive!" upon seeing the newly-recovered old bike.

Liberation

It's great to be back in the saddle again. I have spent half my life cultivating from love, softness and kindness. It's a feeling I've missed, and I'm the shackles of postmodernism. It has opened my eyes to the different points. My routine I can take viewing from one point to another. One means to appreciate his mentality while riding on the perfectly colored terrain of this city.

Similarly, VanCamp's first major role was on the unheralded teen drama "Everwood" before getting a supporting role in "Brothers and Sisters," with neither show really setting the world on fire. Combined with the on-to concept, "Brains in the Graveyard", it would have been easy to dismiss the show out of hand, but it is due to a really one of the few times the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

"Revenge" combines the social scheming of "Gossip Girl" and the machinations of "Leverage," but gets just the right amounts of both to avoid going over the top. In each of the episodes aired so far, Clarke/Thorne, with the aid of noble ally and anonymous Nolan from Gabriel Mann), takes down a member of the conspiracy against Clarke/Thorne's father, with the audience keeping score through a running pizza photo that starts to mean a collection of crossed-out faces.

The plots aren't as guardians and "psyche!" inspiring as those in "Leverage" but they are well thought-out, which really helps give the sense that Clarke/Thorne has been hatching these schemes for years some time. That level of forward-thinking is one of the reasons why the show works so well. Everything is so well-planned by the show's writers that there hasn't been a single misstep or out-of-place moment. This is a rather show that has a role run tighter than movie that have been on the air for more than five years...a huge accomplishment.

Aside from the revenge angle, the show also works as a straight-up soap opera. Clarke/Thorne gets involved with the son of the Grayson, Daniel Grayson (Gossip Girl's Connor Paolo), who is dating Mitty's (Lynn) best friend. It's pretty obvious it's part of her plan or does she harbor genuine feelings?

Complicating matters is the presence of Jack Porter (Nick Wechsler), a childhood friend of Clarke/Thorne. But is part of the socialite group in the Hamptons? Or is he working for Clarke/Thorne, as an outcast of a food climbing spot. Not only does he harbor a childhood crush for Amanda Clarke, Porter also falls in love with Emily Thorne, resulting in a complex love polygon.

On the other hand, the only sour note in the show's cast is the forced romance between Porter's younger brother, Declan (Tanner Poole, formerly on "Gossip Girl") and the Graysons' daughter, Charlotte. Beyond the standard "She's rich! He's not!" plot, the two seemingly only exist as walking plot convenience.

Aside from the two lads, however, there's all sorts of other, more interesting behind-the-back treats going on between Conrad and Victoria's love triangle, the head of the Grayson security staff (perhaps the only person so far to suspect that Clarke/Thorne is not on the up and up) and Nolan's, and even Daniel and his best friend from college, who goes all a "Edmond-Mr. Ripley" vibe.

But for all the smart and clever writing that exists on this show, it falls largely to VanCamp to deliver and avoid making things sound hokey and cartoony. The 25-year-old actress simply does an excellent job as Clarke/Thorn, working the fake identity well, shifting in tone and emotion depending on who she's talking to, while executing various schemes that ruin people just so they ruined her father's reputation any remember.

One of the great things about television is that it allows one to root for horrible things to happen to horrible people, and that feel is probably one of the things that makes "Revenge" so watchable. It stinks the other way too, as there are times when you just want for Clarke/Thorne to willing to go to the ranks of her father (especially when people start dying, I mean, getting pattern a coma, so per the latest episode). Also intriguing is the fact that the show reportedly has a finite end for Clarke/Thorne's plan, so it remains to see if the writers can keep the show fresh for another three seasons after this season.

Does she get to go off into the sunset or will someone take revenge on the revenge taker? Simpler in concept, but more ambitious in its execution than most television shows, everything else currently on the TV (his name) "Revenge" really earns its an early status.

By Adrian M. Ou
Credit Basis

GUESTHOUSE ambitious setting up a horrible downfall in a popular television, both in fictional and real worlds. Most of this year's shows have seemingly gone for broke, pulling in big names (Bruce Willis in "Cloud Dancers" on "The New Girl") and behind (Steven Spielberg on "Terra Nova") the cameras, while others stubbornly tried to make high concepts work on a smaller scale ("The Playboy Club").

It is this latter that the most-watch new show of the year might be a nighttime soap that is tangentially linked to its source material. The humble "Revenge," a modern day rewording of Alexander Dumas' "The Count of Monte Cristo," stands out amongst this year's new offerings.

After spending much of her teenage years in juvenile prisons, fatuously Clarke Emily VanCamp) finally returns to the Hamptons to exact revenge on those who framed her father for terrorism and caused his suicide. Using the name Emily Thorne and hiding a huge inheritance from her self, only to find out that her father passed away, leaving behind a huge inheritance. Aside from enough money to set her up as a millionaire, there is also a journal by her father.

Inside it are revelations that he was framed for funding a terrorist organization that led to a ferry plane crash, as well as pulled off the ramps never has former friends and colleagues, led by the family Grayson, Victoria (Madeline Stowe) and Conrad, who managed to falsify reams of evidence and false witness. Though Clarke's father urges her to forgive and forget, Clarke changes her name to Emily Thorne and begins a long, elaborate plot to take them all down.

If you've never heard of the show's creator, Mike Kelley, you're excused. This is only his second production as show runner, having cut his teeth on the mediocre replacement show "Notorious," which lasted just 13 episodes before getting canceled.

LIFESTYLE Travel
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Towers and towering egos in Delhi

The Qutb Minar is a Unesco World Heritage site, a wonder of Islamic architecture—and a monument to the pursuit of grandeur

By Ivy Manalo
Contributor

THE COMIC book character Tintin had been in India on several occasions. In one episode, Tintin visits Delhi with his loyal partner, the hostile Captain Haddock, while en route to Rotheram da. While waiting for their connecting flight, the couple takes in the sights of the Indian capital. They visit the Red Fort as well as the Qutb Minar.

I recall a frame that showed Tintin looking up at the towering Minar and observing that "It's 230 feet high." (Looking up) But he (or his brother) the last time I was in Delhi, I was quite impressed to find that Mega, Tintin (1950), was on the dot about the structure's height.

Hergé was also correct about the choice of sights. The Red Fort and the Qutb Minar are probably two of the most remarkable architecture in a city filled with stunning things. The whole compound of the Minar is actually on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), which noted that it was "an outstanding example of the architectural and artistic achievement of early Islamic India."

A 1927 archaeological survey guidebook by a certain Jas Page quaintly describes that "among the many historical remains of Delhi, the most notable and interesting in point of antiquity and design is the Qutb." Now, who could argue with that?

In view of Mr. Page's and Hergé's endorsements and having already been to the Red Fort, I

TOWERS AND E2

Staff01 Diego Alden Joshua Cada

A weekly directory of the country's best entertainments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Rediscover the secrets of Siam

FOR 500 years, the kingdom of Thailand was known as Siam, a name that has inspired visions of great kings and queens, gilded palaces and deeply-rooted traditions. Also known to Siam is the art of balanced cooking—sweet and salty, sour and spicy—unique combinations that continues to be the signature flavors of modern-day Thailand.

Rediscover the roots of Thailand's ancient culinary culture with "Secrets of Siam: A Thai Food Festival" at the Hotel Nikko and Grand Hyatt to celebrate the arrival of legendary Thai chef, Sirilack Lekhavat, who learned at the Thai royal court.

After captivating the kitchens of Grand Hyatt Shanghai in Bangkok and Grand Hyatt Hong Kong, chef Mom Jeeraporn Lekhavat, better known as Thai cuisine, to be featured in the menu kitchens of Market Cafe from Nov. 4 to 13.

Indulge in the beautiful Thai festively offering authentic fare from Thai (green papaya salad), Luang Kao Gai (chicken in yellow curry and potatoes), Phad Thai (rice noodles with shrimp), Pla Rad Prik (deep-fried snapper with chili and tamarind sauce), Hor Lai Phad Sieu Pik Phao (stir-fried clams with roasted chili and sweet basil), Ja Kreng Moo Or Sam Phaeng (braised pork spareribs with bean curd and oyster sauce) and Panaeng Nua (beef curry).

Desserts such as Khad Moo Sha, mang cut-fry rice with mango), Fak Tan Krob (water chestnuts with iced syrup and coconut milk), Sangkaya Fug Thong (pumpkin custard) and sweetness in the Thai personality.

Adding to the food festival's authenticity will be the fact that a majority of the ingredients will be imported directly from Thailand.

Chef Phan has over 30 years culinary experience and an ability to create perfectly balanced, home-cooked dishes, the signature dishes serves a growing business between the four cardinal flavors of sour, salty, sweet and spicy that are other Thai hints.

Chef Mom's culinary creations are a world away from the generic versions of Thai food that have been popularized in many countries.

The special for the Thai food festival is offered daily during the dinner buffet for P1,850 net per person and is also available on the weekend lunch buffet for P1,650 net per person. Rates are inclusive of free flowing Thai iced tea, Thai iced coffee and beer.

For reservations and more information, call the Food and Beverage Reservations Center at 247-0666 or 249-1234 ext. 7283. Alternatively, e-mail reds.mnl@sheraton.com.

Weekend treats

A RELAXING weekend near the families is available at Sea Wonders Hotel, Metro Subic. The "family delivery Promo" comes at only P7,888 net and includes an overnight accommodation at a well-appointed and fully-furnished two-bedroom suite with spacious sala and single bath, kitchen and dining facilities, cable television and free bathrooms. The package also includes buffet breakfast for four persons, unlimited Wi-Fi access, use of the infinity pool and fitness center and a ticket for four at the Oceanarium of the Manila Ocean Park. Book at Sheraton Hotel, Vienna Boulevard, 7929 Manila Avenue, Makati City. For inquiries, call 403-0888 or 403-8855, or e-mail reservations@sheratonsubic.com.

Healthy sweet pies and ice creams

IN PHENOMENON for its opening at the MEDICard Lifestyle Centre in Makati in mid-November. Suggested launches for now products there. Jake's Ice Cream is the concentrated Day a chef's marketing and business development head Angelo Gregorio, whose candidates include ice cream compositions. Blend ice cream flavors are sugar-coconut milk base provides consumers without dairy products and cholesterol). Low in fat and sugar, and contain billions of probiotics from the non-pathogenic Gastro Essentials. Sweety Pies is the brainchild of Gina Pamplona, who is an advocate of healthier dining options. Most cakes and pastries are contained sugar, a natural sweetener that is low in calories and can be enjoyed by diabetics (still in moderate amounts). Pallbearer-style sugar is completely avoided across the entire restaurant. Wheat flour is used to provide additional fiber. Together is located at 5/F Health Care Building, 126 Wilson Street, West Greenhills in San Juan (between Ortigas and EDSA). Call 584-0987, (0917) 803-6806, or e-mail info@chicagopizzaph.com. Like us on Facebook at Sweety Pies and Twitter and follow us on Twitter @chicagopizzaph. The MEDICard Lifestyle Centre is located at the corner of Francisco Rosas and Gen. Ed Floyd Avenue.

EMP-EAGA MEETING

Malaysian head of delegation, Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunos (DG), is welcomed by Peyra Pasa, senior sales manager for Hotel C. Bar as he rose to arrive at the hotel for the 16th ministerial meeting of BIMP-EAGA Conference to be held at the Xavier Estates Sports and Leisure Club. Dr. Yunos is the head of the many foreign officials who arrived in Cagayan de Oro City for the BIMP-EAGA confab along with delegations coming from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and the Philippines staying at the

Host star Sarimen Bin Peyra Pasa in Carmen Hill.

URBAN REFUGE

Tired after doing your early Christmas shopping? Check out Best Western Hotel La Carona Manila. Relax in a homey hotel in the heart of Manila. For reservations, please call 524-3611.

CENTARA HOTEL MANILA NOW OPEN

Leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Centara Hotel Manila are (from left) Steve Soh, Centara Hotel Manila general manager; Michel Horn, Centara Hotel and Resorts VP for operations; Sen. Antonio "Sonny" Trillanes; Mrs. Lucienne Jo Ni Kanth, master of ceremonies; Sue H. Prasertsuksai, president and CEO of Sapporo International Inc. and owner of Centara Hotel Manila; and Carl Michael H. Brucenbruggen, VP for operations, Philippines. The new hotel, located in the cultural hub district of Makati, has 15 floors and 96 rooms and suites. It features F&B outlets The Westin, Ginger & Lime, and Bar Lounge, and the Spa Centara. The hotel belongs to the Centara Hotels and Resorts group, the largest hotel chain in Thailand that offers prime location, international standards, and Thai hospitality.

Get ready for the Pacquiao-Marquez III fight

At the Pacific Grand Ballroom of Pan Pacific Manila, the Philippines' National Pug, Manny Pacquiao, takes on Juan Manuel Marquez for the third time, live via satellite from MGM Grand Garden Arena on Sunday, Nov. 13. Odds are number one with a satisfying morning snack with a free flow of coffee or tea, and enjoy the main showdown with a delightful brunch buffet with delicacies as of late, savories and iced tea. Tickets are available at the Business Center for only P1,200 net. Screening starts at 8 a.m. Pan Pacific Manila is located at M. dela Reina corner Gen. Malvar Streets, Malate, Manila. For inquiries visit pacpublic.com/manila or call 318-0788 and ask for the lobby concierge!

Solaire Resorts & Casino This is how most people know Manny Pacquiao as he goes unbeaten inside the Lights. And with eight titles under his belt, "unbeatable" is quite an understatement. Japs up early enough. The space has been said about the event is closed. Between Star Tagaytay Place Hotel Suites, it has become the most sought after venue from a simple but elegant wedding ceremony to a grand corporate event. It has been praised for its complete facilities and multi-designed and functional settings. On Nov. 11, at 9 p.m., it will yet again be the place where people get a chance to witness history unfold. One Tagaytay Place Hotel Suites will be showing the much awaited Pacquiao vs. Marquez III live at the Aurora Grand Ballroom. Ticket price is at P800 with food coupon. One ticket will be given for free to those who will purchase their rewards. For those who will purchase One Tagaytay's Apolaya promo on the weekend of the fight, one free ticket will also be included. Truly, the Aurora Grand Ballroom at One Tagaytay Place is a fitting venue to witness Manny Pacquiao's journey to glory. For tickets, call 851-6041, 857-8111, 357-7111 (SMS) 0919-3111 (0922-894-8872), (0921-894-8874) or 70 St. e-mail reservations@onetagaytay-place.com, sales@onetagaytayplace.com. Like on Facebook.com/onetagaytayplace. Follow on twitter.com/onetagaytay.

The most awaited third time's match between this "number one pound-for-pound best boxer in the world" Manny Pacquiao versus the Mexican Dinamita Juan Manuel Marquez takes a life of its own at Lancaster Hotel, Manila. While the city awaits dramatically a bloodbath of another Pinoy victory, catch the host live at Lancaster Hotel on Nov. 13 at the 36, Sky Lounge, and enjoy the action with a panoramic view of the city for as low as P975 net per person, inclusive of brunch buffet and one round of ice tea, juice, or coffee from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Lancaster Hotel Manila is conveniently located at Shaw Blvd., in Mandaluyong City, a few hundred meters away from the busy intersection of Ortigas along EDSA. For more information and reservations, call 632-1818, fax 632-1818, e-log on to www.lancasterhotel.com.ph or e-mail reservations@lancaster-hotel.com.ph.

Gran Prix
Microtel
Hotels · Resorts

Celebrate women's wellness at the Quan Spa

ASIA' A want to health in Marriott Manila and all Quan Spas of Marriott properties launches a month-long worldwide campaign "Women Well-ness Month.

Recognizing the importance of every woman's well-being, a 30 percent discount on all spa treatments such as massage, body scrub, body wraps, facial, foot and hand spa, plus other add-on treatments will be donated to selected women of Pinay Ziy for a free cervical cancer shot, in cooperation with the Marie Stopes Philippines Foundation.

The kick-off of the promo not only offers a luxurious holiday treatment, it's an opportunity to contribute to a world-changing wellness advocacy visit November 2011. "The goal is to lead the campaign for conscious healthy lifestyle," Bharati Maida resident manager Anna Marquez says. "Going by the daily hassles faced by the 21st century women, it's important to have a strong, devoted good body which are just some of the elements for long, quality life," she adds.

Recharge at Quan Spa for another week's worth of food, and in the meantime, contribute to the advocacy for wellness. For more information, call 988-0999 or visit www.marriott.com/manqs. Like Marriott Hotel Manila on Facebook for the latest updates on promos and events.

Hotel Kimberly
One Tagaytay Place Hotel Suites
Palazzo Hotel
Solaire Resort & Casino
Diamond Resort & Hotel
Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila
The Sulo Resort
CBD Plaza Hotel
Crimson Hotel
Crimson Resort
Hotel Venezia
La Piazza Hotel & Convention Center
Manila Bay Marriott Hotel
Hugo Land Hotel
Hugo Resort Hotel
Hotel Horizon
Vila Caceres Hotel
Avenue Plaza Hotel
Crimson Plaza Hotel
Boracay Tropics Resort
Boracay Gold Crown Resort
Boracay Holiday Resort
Boracay Paradise Resort
Boracay Garden Resort
Boracay Regency Beach Resort
Crimson Regency Resort & Spa
Discovery Shores Boracay
Fairways and Bluewater
Le Soleil de Boracay
Regency Lagoon Resort
Sea Breeze Resort
Sandoa Place Hotel
HCC Plaza at Hamilkadel
Bonaventure Hotel
Bonaventure Hotel & Plaza Mall
Grand Hotel Iloilo
Hotel Del Rio
Plaza Regency Hotel
The Grand Dome Hotel
Richmonde Hotel
Cebu Midtown International Hotel
Cebu Grand Hotel
Crimson Regency Private Residence Business
Crimson Regency Beach Resort & Marina
Discovery Shores Boracay
Fairways and Bluewater
Le Soleil de Boracay
Regency Lagoon Resort
Sea Breeze Resort
Sea Residence Resort
Mactan Island Resort
Shangri-La Mactan Resort & Spa
Waterfront Cebu City Hotel
The Plaza Hotel
Microtel Inn & Suites
Microtel Hotel
Microtel Inn & Suites
Microtel Inn & Suites
Microtel Inn & Suites

From page E3

first decided to see the great tower. Sadly, I experienced an unfortunate incident while buying my admission ticket. I had given the ticket seller a three-rupee note and was surprised when he handed me a much smaller amount than what I had expected in change.

When I asked him about this, he coolly informed me that I had given him a hundred rupee note. Luckily, I had just counted my money and I knew exactly what I had brought out of my wallet. I stood my ground. Seeing my conviction, the ticket seller casually gave me the correct change. Then he asked me for a tip. It was then that I decided that the better part of valor was to flee!

Fortunately, the pleasant environment of the compound instantly calmed my frayed nerves. Everywhere one turned were luminous forms and tall trees. It was an oasis, a respite from the heat of the city. I decided to chalk up my ticket seller incident to experience and convenience-store replenishment.

Endless colonnades

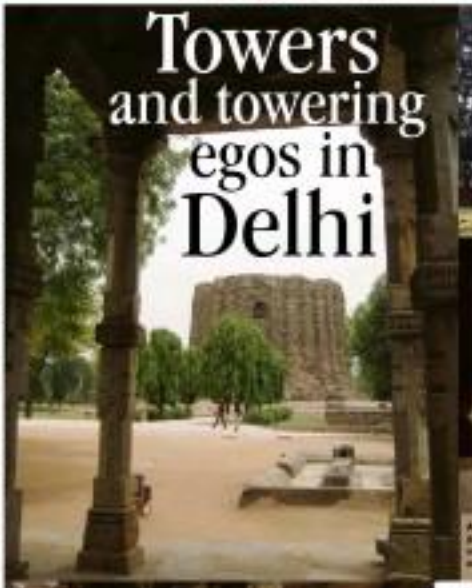
My first stop was the tomb of an ancient mosque. Entering the courtyard, I was a little confused by the sizes and sizes of columns which didn't look like they belonged in the ornamental of Islamic architecture to me. In fact, what they reminded me of were the endless colonnades of the remarkable temple cities of Tamil Nadu.

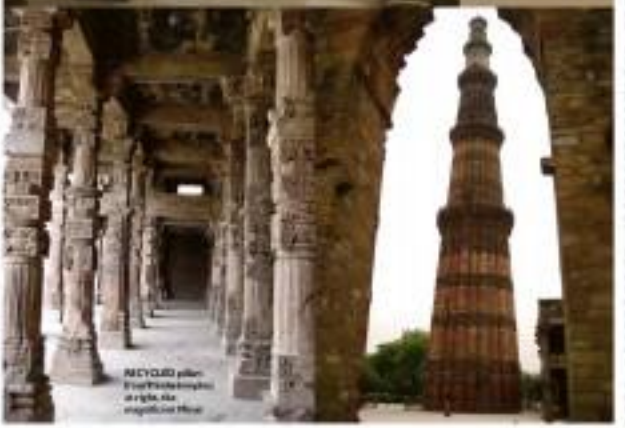
It turned out that there was a good reason for my confusion: when they invading Indian armies had defeated their Hindu adversaries, one way to demonstrate the power of the victors was to destroy the sacred shrines of the vanquished. The invaders used pillars salvaged from the dismantled temples to help them start to build the places of worship of the conquerors.

All over the ruins of the mosque, one could see bits and pieces from other edifices. The territory had been covered up, as there were apparently other inhabitants of the Muslims. Only the floral and geometric decorations were retained for embellished with carved passages from the Koran. The result was a new reality, underlined through an architectural cut-and-paste.

Looking at the convergence of designs on the walls, I could not help reflecting on the changing fortunes of history. Armies fortified for appearances, and the result would be incorporated into holy places which were plagued, defiled. And then, brutally subjugated. Religious meanings had no place in conquest.

In the center of the courtyard is one of the marvels of the Delhi compound: a tall tower of white stone that carried despite the passing of centuries. The type of ability need it said to be quite assured for the period in which the piece was cast. Some have suggested that the metal surface had cast cracked due to the practice of bathing the pillar with oil. Others acted that a Gemini, the ancient associated with Vishnu, may have once adorned the very top.





Still others say that encircling the mysterious column with one's arms would bring good luck. Whatever the truth may be, the authorities did not seem to be amused: they have built a fence around the famous iron pillar.

Of course, the compound's main attraction is the awe-inspiring Minar itself. It takes its name from its builder, the Ghaznavid commander Qutb-ud-Din Aibak. He had the imposing structure erected at the turn of the 13th century to commemorate his triumph over his Rajput foes at the battle of Kavana. His inspiration was the Minaret of Jam in Afghanistan.

Predictably, he would not be content unless his creation would surpass what it was modeled after. Eventually, the Delhi soldier would end up 7 metres taller than its Afghan counterpart, making it the tallest stone and brick tower in the world.

Intricate carvings

The Qutb Minar is an impressive sight. What makes it so visually arresting is the fact that it is not just a single spire. Its sides are ribbed, reminding one of the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur. The sides are also festooned with intricate carvings and inscriptions. A closer look will reveal a kaleidoscope of stone blocks in different shades of orange. The result is a stunning outdoor vehicle brings to mind sunsets on desert dunes and also the smoke of fires.

Staring at the Minar, one cannot help but wonder how did it manage to remain standing for s...

...millennium? How was it that it had not yet fallen victim to earthquakes or wars?

In fact, the lower had been damaged on a number of occasions. Subsequent rulers also tried to leave their mark. One ambitious fellow even tried to build a bigger version. The project was halted after the fall of the ruler who had begun the second structure would have been.

Despite the turmoil of energy that must have been poured into the endeavor, however, the latter would decree that it was not to be. All that is left is a mound of rock, an eloquent reminder of a sovereign's hubris.

Some time in the 19th century, the Qutb Minar's crowning cupola was destroyed by lightning. The task to carry out the reparation fell on the shoulders of Major Robert Smith. The replacement that he eventually built was thought to be incongruous with the rest of the Iskandar Minar's style. In 1848, Smith's own cupola was ordered removed by the viceroy, Lord Hardinge. The offending structure was later transferred to one corner of the garden where it can still be seen today. Locals have come to call it "Smith's Folly."

Walking out of the compound I was met by a party of visitors. Their colorful attire marked them as residents of one of the thousands of villages of rural India. Watching as they walked away, I could not help but reflect what came to their minds when they viewed this majestic monument of their long-dead rulers?

Did they take pride in the wonder of past achievements? Or is it possible that their own, temporary had been among those whose bones had been pillaged, defiled and then scattered to the winds that would be swallowed up by the cruel mists of the future?

Great monuments may or may not survive the centuries. Yet the questions and conflicts, defeats and devotion that their creation may have engendered will continue to demand answers long after their builders and occupants are nothing more than dust.

Albay bags national tourism awards

ALBAY recently bagged a series of national awards in tourism, governance, and disaster preparedness.

The province won two Best Tourism Practices Awards at the national convention of the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines held in Tuguegarao City.

The Mayon 360 Degrees Selfie Marathon, an extreme sports adventure event, got first place in the Best Tourism Event Sports Platform Category (Provincial Level).

Regarded as among the most challenging runs in the country, Mayon 360 takes runners around the volcano's circumferential road and passes through the scenic towns of Sto. Domingo, Ramon Magsaysay, Tabaco City, Ligao City, Guinobatan, Camalig, Daraga, and Legazpi City.

Meanwhile, the Magayon Festival, Albay's provincial homecoming get-together, got honors in the Best Tourism Event: Festival Category (Provincial Level).

A month-long celebration depicting the legend of the Daragang Magayon or the origins of Mayon Volcano, the festival showcasing the cultural heritage of the provinces.

Aside from Mayon Volcano, which draws droves of tourists even during eruptions, the upscale Misibis Bay Resort in Cagraray Island in Bacacay is among the province's top attractions.

Complementing this coastal charm are Spanish-era Franciscan churches, like the

TWI Church

MAGAYON Festival

coastal beaches of volcanic sands, dive sites, tropical escapades, enchanting waterfalls, and the spicy exotic local cuisine.

Albay's gateway is Legazpi City, the provincial capital, and the gateway to major points in the Bicol region.

In a related development, Albay was also awarded the Bicol being Prize award by the Department of the Interior and Local Government as part of the 26th anniversary celebration of the Local Government Code of 1991.

Albay was named the best in Bicol region in governance practices, in the provincial category while Tiwi and Ligao City topped the municipal and city categories.

Moreover, the province was also given the Gawad Kalinga Award for bagging the Best Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council for the third consecutive year.

The annual citation is given by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council for outstanding practices in disaster preparedness.

Last year, the province and Albay governor Joey Salceda/Salceda were recognized Disaster Response Campaign Champions by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Super LIFESTYLE

Everything you wanted to know about Nicholas Sparks (but were afraid to ask)

'The Notebook' author on his Hala experience, answering Boy Abunda's indecent question, the Filipina aunt that taught him Tagalog, and why he—gasp!—really 'doesn't like writing'

WOW! makes you cry?

Hmm. Well, I cry infrequently. Certainly the tragedies of life would make anyone cry. I lost both my parents and my younger sister. Those were very sad events for me. I suppose it's the real events that do. But every movie and story is a book or a film. It's usually a dog's story. The titles, "Old Yeller," "My Dog Skip." Those things are heartbreaking! (Laughs) It's just who I am.

Do you remember yourself crying as a kid?

Yeah. I do sweet things for my wife, but I'm not a cry. After 22 years, she's still my best friend.

How did you miss her now?

I wrote letters. About 100 of them. We lived in different cities, so I wrote her two letters a day for about two to three months.

Tragedy is an intrinsic part of your novels. I'm sure there must be in your family had a lot to do with it?

It did and it didn't. "The Notebook" had no death at all. It was a story inspired by my wife's grandparents and this grand, romantic heaven there that spanned a lifetime. Once that became successful, I decided to write another love story already a up, add different elements to it, and that's what I've been doing ever since.

Your weepy, tear-jerker formula has been extremely lucrative for you. You're the world's 13th top-earning author, according to Forbes. Do you think you'll ever take a gamble and deviate from the norm?

Probably not. But who knows? There may come a time. Maybe in the future I'll write a different kind of novel. I'm sure I'll always do what I do, then maybe add to it. But I'll never replace it.

Are You Sure Miss ' Saying Goodbye "Those were failed movies that you never finished. What did you learn from them?

Never start a story until you know what you want it to be. There's that big question: I have to have somewhat before I can write: How they meet, what's keeping them apart, what drives the story. And the other part is the arcs of the characters. You also have to know a little bit about the turning points in the novel. You have to know the perspectives (whether it's first person, third person, or limited third. Then you have to capture the voice. Which telling the story and how? All those are the building blocks. If I don't have all that, then I'm not writing. It might fall apart on any one of those things. It's very interesting to be working on a novel as it's falling apart.

Were those two novels the only casualties, so to speak?

Those are the two big ones I wouldn't have any problem finishing. They were a third two to three months' work. One was two-thirds done, the other was half done. That's frustrating, because you've devoted a lot of time and energy. Time when it's starting to fall apart you realize that you're spending even more time to it, to fix it and it's not.

Have you ever thought of salvaging them?

No. Maybe in 20 or 30 years, but not right now.

How have you secretly included yourself in your novels?

Those are usually bits and pieces of me. My wife says I play basketball like I know me know where I got my material. Some will rise and go "I know where you got that. I know exactly where!"

Is this why your brother jokingly calls you "the male Jackie Collins"?

Yeah, he does, and it's another people! (Laughs) But it's all good.

What's the worst thing said about you as a novelist?

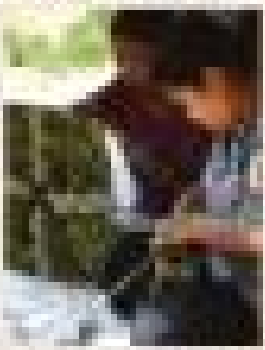
Oh gosh. Sara. Some people say I don't write, some say my stories are terrible. Lots of awful things, but what can you do? It would be wonderful if everyone loved your works but that's not realistic. It is what it is.

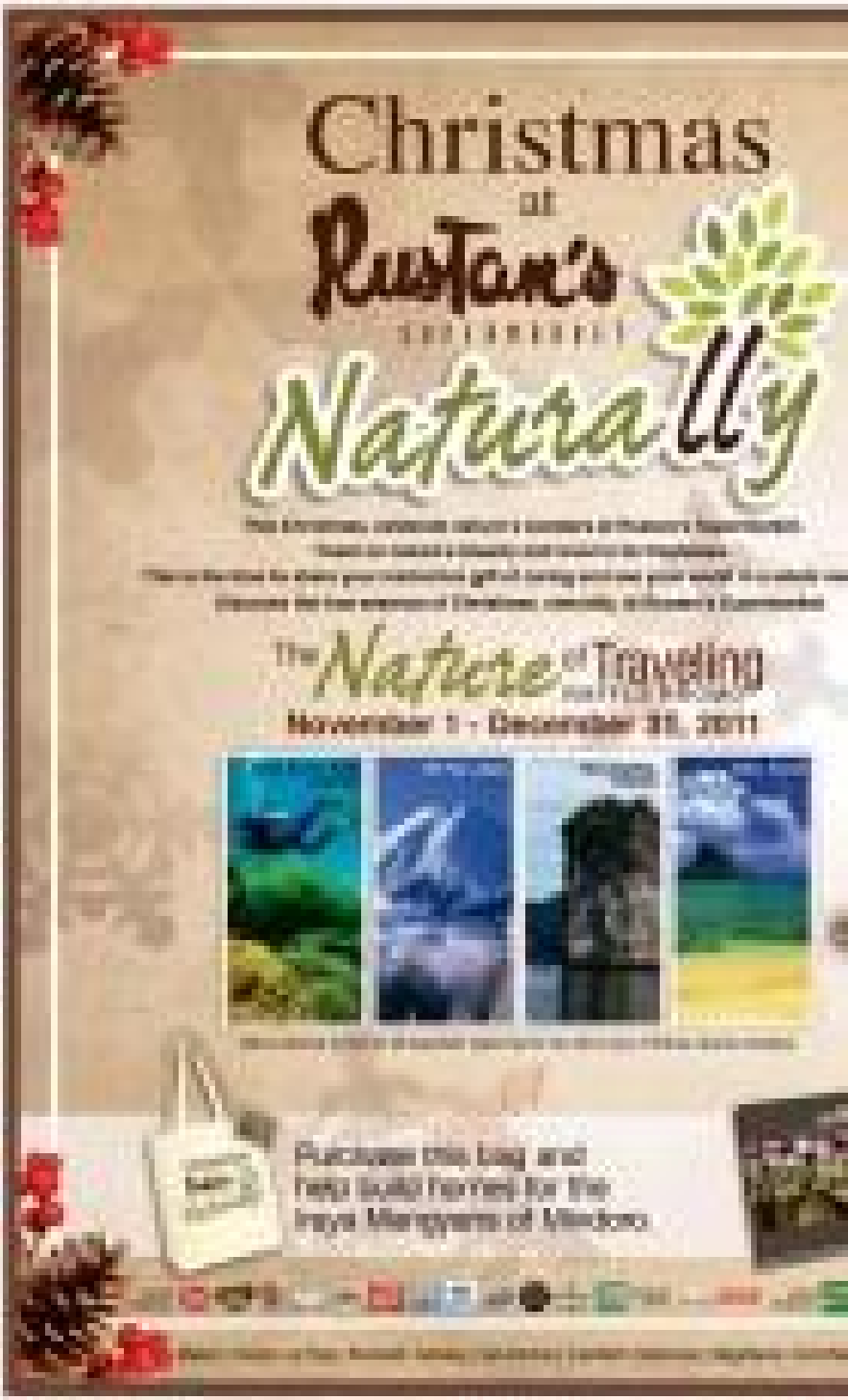
Are you the type of obsessive writer who removes himself from the world and shuts everything out until he's done?

I'm obsessed about the words

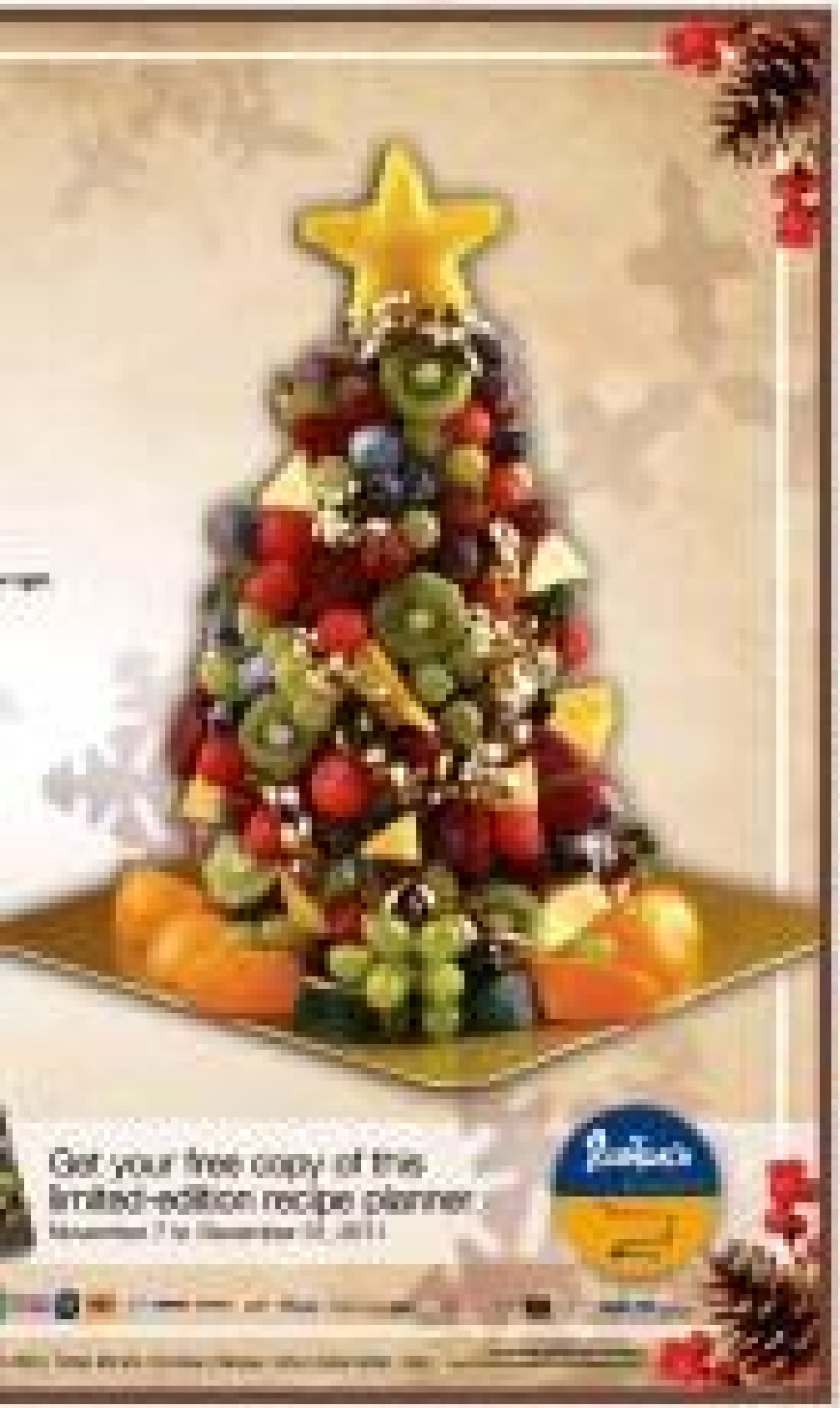
An Ayala Foundation and Rustan's Supermarket partnership

The True Nature of Giving for the Iraya Mangyans

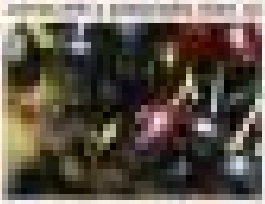




Celebrate the Holidays in Extra-Savory Ways



For 2012 Recipe Finder
At Nature's Table



Everything you wanted to know about Nicholas Sparks (but were afraid to ask)

From page E1

themselves. But no, I'm not that kind of guy. I'm a procrastinator. I laughed. I'll come up with any excuse to stay away from it. I'll check my e-mail. I'll take the dog out. I'll suddenly need a cup of coffee or a glass of water. Anything.

What are you reading at the moment?

"Sweeping Up Hearts in the New Third World" by Michael Lewis.

Do you read actual books or do you use an e-reader, like a Kindle or iPad?

Both. Right now, I'm reading hard copy.

They say the golden era of books is over. What's your honest take on e-readers?

It's convenient. I have to tell you though, I went all on a trip a few weeks ago with my Kindle and I was so excited because I had 10 books in there. But it broke! 10 books on day one! It wouldn't recharge and it eventually went dead. After that I said I'm never not coming with a book again. So I went back to books in pockets. [Laughs]

You made your first million at 30. How did you really spend it?

I know it sounds like a staggering amount of money, but you subtract your agent's commission off the top, and then you take out taxes, and it's not as much as you'd think. So really what you have is much less! What did I do? I bought a used car, a new wedding ring for my wife, and then the next year I got earrings. I didn't know if I would ever be able to write a second book. I was very pragmatic. I don't think you went look a snowcone. I don't even think I took my family!

You turned 30 once by yourself, with no entourage. That's very surprising for known/feared successful author.

I don't need a babysitter. I don't even have a secretary. If you call my office, I will answer the phone. Everyone's like, "Really?!? Don't you need an assistant?" But I don't do anything! I write. I walk my dog. What do I need an assistant for? I have a house manager who'll do little things for me, but I'm the most part, it's just me. It's all between the ears.

That's refreshing to hear.

You have to realize that, most of the time, I'm not a best-selling author. I'm a dad. I'm a husband. I'm a writer, certainly absolutely! When I'm working I don't feel like I'm a best-selling author. How would you feel that? I've been living in the same town for 20 years, where I'm no big deal. Go outside, it's amazing, and you're always reminded, which is why I'm always shocked and humbled. But then you go back home and you're like "Honey, I'm home! I'm a best-selling author!" and she goes "Great! Take out the garbage, walk the dog, the kids needs a kiss goodnight, and you're going to go see Cars 2 with them tomorrow." Okay hun, got it!" Then it's back to regular life.

You have five kids. Do you see any of them pursuing a writing career?

Maybe. They've all inherited Dad's Narcissist assortment, but they're all very bright. I just want them to find work that they're willing to do well. I don't necessarily love writing. I like the life of a writer, but I don't like the writing part of it. Writing well is very hard for me, and yet I do it. When I do it, even though it's not my favorite thing, I do it well. When I do it well, I get to do so many other things. I coach my kid's soccer team, go on a date still when I want one, take trips with my wife, and create pajamas to model!

But you just say that you don't really like writing?

Nope, not at all! I wrote my first novel at 19, and my second at 22. Writing is torture—writing well is hard, quite frankly. If I were one of those prophesied just-wrote-three-uptown-girls-coming-with-a-mermaid-tail-a-day authors and a book a month. Writing well is hard especially if you're dealing with things that concern internal conflict as opposed to external conflict. External conflict is a serial killer, a shark in the water, dinosaurs escaping the island—you see how it's easy to keep that going, running with external conflict. How do you keep the pages turning if, gods, it's "Tevi I love him! Do I not?" It's a lot harder to keep that kind of intensity, but that's what you're competing with in the modern world. How will you make sure that "Will baby love Jon?" can compete with a dash in the water?

Do you think you'd ever see a novel in the Philippines?

Someone my hotel room, the TV studios and the bookstores, I've met such much in the last two days!, but you park up a lot about a place by the people you meet and the things you see in the countryside. I can't say I've seen anything in the Philippines that has surprised me. Most of my novels are set in North Carolina, but that doesn't mean I can't have a Filipino character.

So who are most interesting people you've met in Manila?

Definitely you guys. He asked me, "If you were in a road position, what would you be?" "Odd question, I said "Writing and silent." [Laughs]

I've been told your Filipino fans have been lining up as early as 2 a.m. for your book signings. What are the interesting things they've told you/had a big Asian following? Specifically a Filipino following?

I have a big Filipino following on Twitter, so yes, I had no inkling. You know, I have no more than's Filipino. She's from Filipino and she married my uncle. She taught me how to say "Mahalaga" among other things.

Your reception in the Philippines has been huge. Did this surprise you?

Absolutely. It's so ridiculous. But I get overwhelmed on support, but here, I was!

Speaking of support, what did you think of Safe? It's been getting a lot of slash lately, often being voted as "the worst" or "the most overrated" by on international travel website.

Had no trouble getting through. Nobody was on list. Nobody got snagged in front of me. It's fine. I've been to pretty bad airports. I've been to worse. It's not like coming in ... but we'll cut how it is when I leave to customs. [Laughs]

"The Best of Me," Nicholas Sparks' latest novel, is available at National Bookstore, Bestsellers and Powerbooks.

TMI: Best-selling author is just a regular guy. "My blog is soap—writing well is hard," says Sparks.

TV's new 'It' girls

By Nina Mark M. Saldaa
Contributor

LOCAL channel ETC is known for bringing into the country the most-talked about and in-demand US shows and movies, like "America's Next Top Model," "The Vampire Diaries," "The Secret Circle," "Glee" and "Gossip Girl."

However, the channel also has its share of homegrown shows, such as "Rated ORC," "Project Runway Philippines," "Asian Cup Fever" and "Ang Pinaka."

The 15-minute episode show has got everything for the stylish youth: fashion features, beauty stories and entertainment news. The program promises to be the newest authority for all things local and foreign, by offering exclusive scoops on the latest trends and hottest people.

And since we're on the topic of cool people, we recently met the show's hosts: Patti Gmoididge and on-the-scene reporter Kim Jones. The two have had no previous experience in showbiz, but their obvious enthusiasm when you get to see the show because Patti and Kim are both naturals in front of the camera.

Patti Gmoididge

How were your auditions like and how did you feel when you got it?

I was really happy. I had auditioned and I hadn't heard from them so I didn't know whether to let it go or still hold on and hope. I actually followed up with them! They made me hope even more and when I got to the final audition, I was like, that is it. I gotta get it, I gotta do it. I was really happy when they finally told me I got it!

What were you doing before getting the audition?

Sweet Patti Cakes (her cupcake business). It's a business. It can't stop, and I'm planning to grow that. I've done collaborations. Bench in 2008 and Globe is coming out again. I also have a food blog.

Do you have a peg or an idol when it comes to hosting?

I always watch E!News and I love the duo of Ryan and Giuliana, but desire is more reporting.

What's your typical day like? What do you like to do?

Relax on the morning. I'm sure I do go to shows but it's mainly for [Sweet Patti Cakes]. I do Pilates and I go to the gym when I can. I love trying new food places. I like, I love to travel.

You seemed like such a foodie. Are you into cooking as well?

My two passions are fashion and food. I did work in fashion in LA. I interned at two different places and when I graduated I was a marketing coordinator for a retailer. I was so excited, but as a business and a casual, I didn't want to work in fashion. I quit my job at the marketing place, and I was like, I just want to do something that I know. So I tried Sprinkles and I loved it so much and I was like, I need to go back to Manila and start up business right now.

What have you learned when it comes to hosting so far?

It's not as easy as it looks. They tape on my audition tapes, and it's embarrassing. That's the biggest thing. I'm happy I know that now.

As a newbie when it comes to hosting, do you find it challenging?

I try my best to just be natural. But I just feel like you still have to kind of "turn on." Simple things like how you talk, intonation or hand gestures. I feel like I'm still learning to be honest.

Kim Jones

How did you end up here in the Philippines and trying out for the show?

My brother was a model here and he fell in love with the Philippines, and he wanted me to come, and so I did. Then opportunity came about and hosting was something I was interested in, so I let my agency know and they filed me in. Even in the audition I was like, I really want to do this.

How is your typical work like?

My typical week is I never going to VIPs and outings. I'm lucky enough to have a little bit of free time. Any chance I get, I go to the beach.

Are you done with school?

I studied for three years, middle to elementary. And then I took a short course on banking and finance. I like knowing a little bit about everything.

What's the best thing about the Philippines?

The best thing? The beaches! It's different here. It's untouched. I love the locals.

You're one from the Filipina. How? Please are you?

I love Filipino food like adobo, sa-lang talong. I love sinigang. I do not like balut. But I've tried it. I love lechon, nang-ig. I actually cried for it.

What's your fashion style like?

I guess growing up in Australia, I adopted this relaxed, flower-together look. I like things that don't look so pressed.

What's your career goal?

I would love to grow as a host. Obviously, this is something I'm just starting in. But I've fallen in love with hosting. I love the interaction, meeting in the heart of the camera as well. I want to grow here.

You've also a model. What's your priority?

My priority is hosting, obviously, although modeling is something that started me off. And I wouldn't have gotten this without my experience in front of the camera as a model.

"Rumored" is on every Sunday at 7:45 p.m., with replays every Monday at 6:45 a.m. and 2:45 p.m., Tuesday at 7:45 p.m., Wednesday at 7:45 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., Thursday at 12:30 a.m. and 7:45 p.m., Saturday at 11 a.m. and 8:45 p.m.

ETC is now on free TV 2050-9, Sky Cable Ch. 34, Destiny Cable Ch. 14, Cable Ch. 13 and Cignal Ch. 34.

KIM JONES and Patti Gmoididge

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rita P. Avila

SATURDAY Special

Mobile blast: Text INQ [MESSAGE] to 4401 | Website: www.inquirer.net/saturday | E-mail: ph_saturday@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer text service/ph/messages 4401

Christmas Party na hassle-free, worry-free, may freebies pa!

Talagang Merry FEASTmas sa Goldilocks!

Get FREE Goldilocks products or gift certificates if you order in bulk from October 24 to December 31, 2011. And get 5% OFF your total bill if you book your orders on or before November 15, 2011.

For SansPrice parties, dial:
888-1-999
or email us at:
myparty@goldilocks.com.ph

Gorgeous melodies from Gabby's other daughter

By Rita P. Avila

TUBOSO is a versatile universe—and self-effacing charm—is the way Carlo Concepcion sings her love songs. In fact, those qualities are what make her songs more than merely serviceable. In her self-titled debut album, Gabby Concepcion's "other" show biz daughter moves into the spotlight, and proves that steely pipes aren't always required to come up with winsome tunes.

True, Carlo doesn't have the kind of voice that would reverberate in listeners' ears or make authentic soma ballads sore. But, what she lacks in vocal heft and theatrical flair she more than makes up for in girl-next-door likability and note-perfect precision—and, the gorgeous melodies ("Baby You Are," "Open Pala") she renders don't hurt, either!

Her pleasant, ultimate-free voice is a cross between her half-sisters, KC, and Lord Don't, and is especially evident in her more intimate numbers like "Mula Ngayon" and "Walang Sumbong Or Kiss Mouthed."

Carlo makes hard to get her notes right, but her diligence and "obedience" to technical detail sometimes drain the spontaneity in her performances, which is what happens in her cover of Regine Velasquez's "I Can," where the "escape" some of her notes.

Limitations

Not the most pair, however, the album manages to showcase the young owner's strengths. But, in an effort to show off her versatility, the collection folds songs that inadvertently expose Carlo's limitations. For example, when the music swells and the tempo speeds up in "When It's Not" and "Hello Mr. Hi," it also tends to drown out her voice, which sounds wispy when the

DOMESTICS 2A

Vice's sassy salvos are 'Benjamin's' best comedic suit

SANDRA. Perfect ng gia vices of hyena-military body

By Nestor U. Torre

THROUGH the years, we've noticed that Vhong Navarro tends to make big, loud, blowzy and contrived comedy movies—quite a number of which turn out to be major hits. His latest film, "Praybeyt Benjamin," follows pretty much the same format, and is shaping up as possibly his biggest blockbuster.

Clearly, the "businessmen" film-makers known how to cobble loud, extravagant flamboyance, so it's instructive to analyze and parse his sputtering new flick, which is reported to have made a resounding P100 million on its first week of showing.

On the positive side, "Praybeyt Benjamin" is less messy than the criminal "Imagine Me and You" movies. It still has his signature period flashbacks and too many actors

VOICE 5A

AMERICAN TEEN POP SINGER-SONGWRITER AND PIANIST

NOV. 19 • 7PM
Eastwood Mall Open Park

NOV. 20 • 8PM
Venice Piazza at McKinley Hill

featuring the singles "Waiting Outside The Lines" and "Unfriend You"
Album out now

with special performances by Sabrina and Kibey & Ricks

EASTWOOD MALL
VENICE PIAZZA

For inquiries, please call the Megaworld Concierge: 709-0888
709-9888 • 0917-8380111.

Add us on BlackBerry Messenger
PIN: 26B26AFF

OUR HOME

MATTRESS & BEDDING SALE

GARFIELD

A. LIPPA

PUGAD BABOY

DICK TRACY

LOVE-MOTS

BABY BLUES

RIKO MACHINE

SEN

HUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

DARTAN

TULDOG

HOROSCOPES

BY FRANCES DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

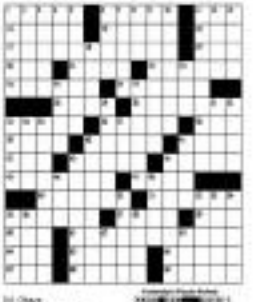
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

	6						1	
8			4	7	9			5
		3				8		
	1			8			7	
	5						3	
	7			5			9	
		5				6		
4			3	1	2			9
	9						8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Melodramatic plot twists hobble Nora Aunor's miniseries

By Nestor U. Torre

IF THE 1998 you read this, Nora Aunor's comeback starrer on TV5, "Sa Sipnet ng Isa," shall have ended in five-week run. We'll have to watch its last three episodes (that is, if time permits) on a Tuesday) to sum up the entire miniseries and its cumulative quality and impact more completely; but are can share that the show came off here on its first and second weeks.

We liked the way that it probed into the complex mundane matters of provincial politics, Pinoy-style. And Nora's protagonist character was well-limned and beamed, with the actor's writing giving her many opportunities to remind viewers why she's regarded as one of the local screen's finest thespians.

By the end of the second week, however, other characters, lamb supporters of and antagonists to Nora's "reformist governor" persona, were more dynamically introduced and developed, and thus blurred the story's central flow and focus.

Efforts

Sa sho sound a rather "help less" lack of real dynamism in Nora's reformed character. Her enemies, both new and renewed, seemed to be able to use stroke around her and her supporters, foiling their earnest efforts to reform and redeem their province. The scripting could that they were successful, but the villains generally remained unpunished, and they continued to do their worst to threatening Nora's administration and terrifying the populace.

Goodness, even the assassination of Nora's husband, which started the storytelling off a month ago, had yet to be solved up to the start of the series' final week!

True, in this country, the political powers that be are difficult to beat in their own game, but so much helplessness, inaction dramatic progression and frustrations viewers from fully "buying" reformist characters really dulled the punch.

In addition, the slow-nagging of some scenes aggravates the feeling of lack of real dramatic action. Take the key scene in which Nora was fighting for her life against her assassin: As she was trying to elude him, her relatives were shown talking about looking for and helping her, but it took an agonizingly long time for them to really do something about it.

It was also frustrating to see the series' main villain, played by Bernardo Bolado, battling fire to save records involving and heard: it, evil without compunction or fear of reprisal. It makes the good guys (or the script hack even more helpless, and gave Bolado' character much more importance than she deserved, while Nora was restricted to merely roaring in her latest hostile assault.

But, protagonist how to be pushed against the wall to dramatically bring out the best in them, but the process took too long in Nora's case, leaving her little room and time to dramatically and punishingly rise to the dramatic occasion.

Violent act

It was also disappointing to see that the series, which started off as a really substantial and significant drama, chose to treat much more melodramatic act in its last few weeks. One killing or violent act followed another, the violence piled up, Nora was trapped, bludgeoned to within an inch of her life but still miraculously survived, but no longer accumulated assaults was conserved, and Boots' character was reverting up for her final.

AUNOR. Her character's vulnerable-initiative lack dynamism.

continued mussic

—so much action and melodrama demanded and demanded from the series' substantial attention and dramatic plus points... and hurt the success of Nora's comeback bid.

Less isn't always more for some actors

By Bebs Cervantes

SOME ACTORS act with their chin, while others use their neck. How from their dramatic intensity, or their body parts, the way Charlton Heston and Burt Lancaster do. They either shout or growl their lines.

Another kind of actor I dislike is the chameo, like William Holden. (Bonus: Holden had holden —he is either stiff as marble or wooden, even when portraying larger than-life characters like Moses, Sam Shar, Shakespeare and Andrew Jackson. So, when he won an Oscar for "Bird Man," I lost respect for the Academy —mention when it honored Ginger Kelly for "Country Girl" over Judy Garland's fabulous sing-act-and-dance act in "A Star is Born."

Besides, I think it was Bing Crosby who came off best in "Country Girl"...neither Kelly nor William Holden came close to his level of acting!

The prominent Holden was a "chair" actor who was always predictable and still. Moreover, he was a "distance" He may have been an idiot in his youth, but in his old age, he shaved his face and looked like the absolute he was!

Painter

Kirk Douglas was superb as Vincent Van Gogh in "Lust for Life," but it was Anthony Quinn who brought home a supporting Actor Oscar for portraying the painter, Gauguin. The former was OA to many of his movies, especially when he matured with the equally-fine, honest Burt Lancaster in "Gunfight at the OK Corral," in which each actor was as over-the-top

DOUGLAS. Oscar-worthy portrayal in "Lust for Life."

as the other! They were so bad that Rhonda Fleming looked good beside them!

Douglas never won an Academy award, though he may have deserved one for "Lust for Life." He was also good in "The Bad and the Beautiful."

Scene-stealer

Lana Turner was effective as the hedonist daughter of The Great Profile, but the scene-stealer in that film was the luminously beautiful Elaine Stewart, who is best remembered in "Young Bess" as Anne Boleyn and in "Brigadoon" opposite Gene Kelly.

John Carradine was another "chair" actor. On the other hand, we also have the so-called "meek" actresses, represented by the likes of Jennifer Jones, Dorothy Malone and Natalie Wood.

Jones won a first Aurora award for "The Song of St. Bernadette," while Malone got an undeserved Oscar for "Written on the Wind."

Wood tried to get an Oscar for "Splendor in the Grass" and "West Side Story," Alas, her rock acting wasn't good enough for the members of the Academy! I was so happy ... and, my respect for the Academy was revived.

MOVIE TIME

GREENBELT 4

1: ASWANG
2: IN TIME
3: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
4: REAL STEEL
5: THE THING
6: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
7: PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3

GREENBELT 5

1: ASWANG
2: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
3: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)

GREENBELT 3

1: IN TIME
2: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
3: THE THING
4: TOWER HEIST
5: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
2: IN TIME
3: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
4: THE THING
5: TOWER HEIST

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
2: IN TIME
3: PUSS IN BOOTS
4: TOWER HEIST

MARQUEE

1: PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3
2: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
3: IN TIME
4: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN

MARKET! MARKET!

1: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
2: TOWER HEIST
3: THE THING
4: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
5: IN TIME
6: ASWANG
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA

1: ASWANG
2: TRESPASS
3: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
4: TOWER HEIST
5: THE THING
6: IN TIME
7: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN

ABREEZA

1: PUSS IN BOOTS
2: PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3
3: IN TIME
4: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN

For ticket reservations or purchases,
text SureSeats to 2910
(for Globe and Smart) or
log on to www.sureseats.com
Movie schedules may change without prior notice.
For verification, please call 729-7777.

MOVIE SPECIAL

MALL EVENTS

GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARQUEE
TRINOMA
ABREEZA
MEGAMALL

MALL SPECIAL

GREEN LIGHT SALE
NOVEMBER 15-20, 2011
Up to 70% OFF

Glorietta | Greenbelt | Ayala Center Cebu | Market! Market! | Trinoma | Abreeza

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2048

my|phone
pusong pinoy

TOUCH INVASION

Pansin ka sa Touch Wi-Fi series ng myjphone!

Early
Christmas SALE!
November 4 - 6, 2011

TW1 Duo
Touch Wi-Fi
with Gameloft Games*

SALE PRICE P2,888

TW8 Duo
Touch Wi-Fi
with Motion Sensor

SALE PRICE P3,888

TW9 Duo
3.5" Touch Wi-Fi
with Motion Sensor

SALE PRICE P4,888

SW28 Duo
Touch Wi-Fi
with Swarovski Zirconia

SALE PRICE P3,888

Wala ka sa phone ko!

GAMELOFT

NOW SHOWING

Lovi, Paulo ravenously bite into love and the occult

By Nick P. Avila

THERE'S SOME to Arnold Tarayo "Amang" that, in literal genre-ratic and blood-sucking sentience—and we expect nothing less from the director of "Confessional," "Masquerade" and "Pamilyar." At the heart of Tarayo's shaking controversy role are Hermie (Lovi Poe), a barista who's a dish sweet, and Daniel (Paulo Avelino), a reluctant heroes with cacao. Boo just transfer on his mind and there for vengeance in his heart.

Hermie and Daniel are hot until meeting by redemption. When their paths eventually cross, they find something even more liberating —love. But, romance is further from the minds of Hermie's "people," called the Coven, a bunch as crazy like incubus for the scenery who twists confusion flesh and blood.

In the crossfire

Caught in the crossfire of this star-crossed couple's burgeoning romance are Gabriel and Alyssa (Allen Cuenco and Jillian Ward), who are running away from their parents' killers. But, the situation gets skew when the siblings also share the attention of Hermie's enormous oil. Imagine!

Tarayo's memorable metaphor of a world gone mad puts relentless tension to the average mythology. In this parallel universe, a tribe of savage creatures prey up for total domination as their human counterparts conspire to wreak havoc on humankind and the world they're supposed to protect. But, greed and ambition have a way of turning things around.

POE AND AVELINO: Lovi reads yearning for redemption.

There dynamics aren't just on love, who effortlessly evoke, tease and hone enthralling motivations to breathe life—and fire—into her tortured characters. Along with the credible leading, lovely Lovi's firm grip on her role helps be up loose ends. Same can't be said for Paulo, as an onlooker to Pinoy's hunger's, and make-some of the unthinkable.

Flaws

Tarayo's visual and thematic lose lies its share of flaws. It is compromised by a surrounding second half, in which there are simply too many things going on in the exposition that make the movie less cohesive than it should be. In a result, the production closes down after the atrocities are fully revealed.

Yet, despite its somewhat puzzling, the engaging chiller is a ride any horror flick you've seen—and never pass up for Tarayo's artist devotion, intentions, crisp images, the smarter takes and otherworldly creatures is unmistakably imaginary—and the engaging insights it offers about the vagaries of love, ambition and sacrifice.

Ingrid Bergman was as controversial as she was talented

BERGMAN: Her incandescent beauty had universal appeal.

By Bobo Cervantes

SECRETLY, my brother-in-law, Domingo, asked his wife, Lydia, about a film starring the youthful Ingrid Bergman, directed by Roberto Rossellini.

The movie must have been one of the films the actress made with the Italian director after they began their romance affair. Thereafter, a pregnant Bergman raised to divorce her husband, Peter Lindstrom, but the situation became so scandalous that she was musically condemned by Hollywood and "exiled" to Italy for close to two decades. She didn't return to Los Angeles until she won her second Academy Award for "Anastasia."

I have vivid memories of the blonde and ethereal Bergman in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Wells," in which Spencer Tracy drove her mad and she upstaged Lana Turner. (Also with her luminous beauty) in "For Whom the Bells Toll." She was a favorite to "Hamlet" Bank," alongside Gary Cooper, with whom (it is said) she had an affair.

Leading men

In fact, she is said to have had affairs with all of her leading men, except Humphrey Bogart, whom with at the time kept close guard during the filming of "Casablanca." In an interview, Gregory Peck also admitted to a youthful fling with the actress.

Bergman was one of the favorite actors of Alfred Hitchcock, who described the actress as "icy hot." Being nearly 5'10" tall, she was often paired with lanky actors like Cooper, Peck and Gary Grant.

Isabelle Rossellini is one of Bergman's twins with Rossellini. However attractive Isabella may be, she does not possess the incandescent beauty and charisma of her mother, who may well represent the classic beauty of Hollywood's golden era. She was dignified and sexy at the same time!

Noel Tan directs 'Darkest Night'

MONTAGE

GET to premiere in Manila this month, Gallic Production International's "Darkest Night" has scored a Filipino action escapé for director-to-leading man. DJ Pro-ty who has experience in films like "The 6th Plague" and "Ghost from The Mark."

"Darkest Night," written and produced by Gary Williams, combines modern monsters with ancient spirits, all fulfilling a business agenda of full-blown suspense and terror.

In the film, an episode Filipino family goes to Cagayan for a Christmas holiday—when they are jolted by a series of bizarre supernatural and deadly events. One by one, the family members die in weird and horrific ways.

Other local players include Jose Sarasua, Jose Llana and Ella Cariaso, and Filipino actor Anita Wong for Hong Kong and Viet stars debuted eighteen.com.

Nick Takes Over Your School

Nick Takes Over Your School "Sunday"

PERRY Tuzon-Dolin, Production International's director

now completed his second feature and has spearheaded a big, team spirit and film-style-inspired mental challenges among professional students. This year's show—"Dragon ang Simula!"

Kumon pulls in celebrity popular Nickelodeon shows are played, plus his team, gift packs, cosmetic and personal accessories to kids' favorite Nick characters. Send-up for appearance on "Sunday!" are Parañaque Integrated School, San Beda College Alabang, Immaculate Doctrine, Oakton Academy and Caloocan School. Log on to www.nick.com.ph/tvtoo.

'Dyke'

Winner of the Best Director award in this year's Cinema Film Festival, the critically acclaimed thriller "Dyke" starring Dyan Sanday, will be shown at Glorietta 2 and Greenhill 2 starting Nov. 9.

The film, about a movie shoot-out director who also shoots gruesome reflection for unreal tastes, is directed by Nicolas Nicolling Bello.

San Pilars

With San Pedro's first iPhad, your fun purse accessories phone gets you connected to the internet. The connection from here is made by you mobile tablet set up ling preferences and requirements. For details, log on to www.sanpilarscom.ph.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 10:45 a.m. "The Pain and the Pilot." Tomorrow at 10:30 a.m., "G" Men. 7:40:35 p.m., "Hall." Mon. 8:45 p.m., "Mystic Lemonade Creams." Tues. Hall 8 p.m., "Romeo Let Be Hill-Wayne." Wed. 10:15 p.m., "Genius." Sun. 11 at 7 a.m., "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

Training in video storytelling

From Nov. 17 to 20, the Mediatight Group is hosting a four-day training course on video production for church media groups, followed by hands-on practice from Nov. 21 to 25, culminating in a final video project. Speakers/coaches include, Phil. Mail. http://mediatightgroup.com/main for details.

Vice's sassy salvos . . .

From page G3

supervising into one film frame, but it feels "cleaner" and more "put together."

Vice Ganda plays the gay icon of a hamster-ballroom family, so what his much beaucoup gowns and wigs? Well, there's a lot of "pink" color and gender preference, he goes berserk.

Lines, however, the comic-country is held hostage by an army of tweenies, who have captured the Philippine Armed Forces' top military leaders, including Gamaliel's classmates, to pay homage. It is compelled to say, so sorry in place of his ailing dad (Jimmy Santos).

Thankfully, he's lousy at the physical exercises and signs he's put through along with other comedic—he solemnly sorta effed. Some of the lines are delivered by supporting players like Mercedes and Rene Cayetano and not by the hamster's "sidekicks."

The Del Rio Dare're no many of them isn't surprising, because Tarantino obviously believes in "safety" in numbers. "Dirt-mentality, the director doesn't work as fast as the movie's running sequences, are somewhat, not very funny. Remember of the jokes and night gags in these are Ritchie's finds.

Screen finds, Derek Ramsay, is cast as the previous's running officer, and Bangsaak falls for him—hilarious. This enables the flick to go into several "battles" sequences that, in a sort of twist... and regular fantasy.

But, the movie's best comedic nut is the lead star's "signature" comedian for running up with funny put downs and barbs that are the natural state of other people's impoverished wits. This is the unique comedy touch that has made him popular first on TV's "Showtime," and now in the movies.

Vice's acerbic wit is rewarded with gales of laughter, but the movie still ends up rather anemic, with the most memorable rescue of Gamaliel's classmates—effected by only eight seconds in duty!

Advocacy

Interwoven by the filmfare a strong "pro-advocacy" theme that urges viewers to accept differences in people, be they gay, fat, or challenged in the physical looking department. The fact that the advocacy is a significant part of a major blockbuster pretentious (and thus obviously accepted) by so many "straight" people indicates that it could help persuade at least some of those to be more "accepting" and less homophobic, so much the better.

As for Vice's lead portrayal, it's generally quite predictable, but he does have a "lift" and quarterly emotional scene in the movie that supports that Vice could be more in his ability to perform than just seem preclusive, revolving and clothing.

Gorgeous

From page G3

folks to get vocal and bitch/sing—inspired from his daydreams.

Andri Cruz, the hero-worthy co-star couple, "Bebito Lang Daw," there's more fun and pleasure to be had in Gerie's social-climbing fueled exposure—most notably "Mahal on Mahal," one of the loveliest tunes we've heard this season. It will remind you of some that The Company's early fans.

Another significant look, the 90s-sounding "Inspiration," isn't without its charting moments—but Cruz's members is with such sincerity that you can't help but root for her to elbe longer for the key of her dream.

SATURDAY Special

Mainstream movies awaken from decade-long slump and slumber

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER MORE than a decade in the doldrums, the local movie industry has finally been showing signs of renewed and revitalized life again.

The first strong sign of revival was last year's Metro Manila Film Festival's creditable showing at the tills. In terms of quality, the output may have been unremarkable, but dozens of people did go to filmer theaters again, and that was all to the good.

Barometer

But, some observers testified, the MMFF happens only once a year, so it shouldn't be taken as a strong and clear barometer of how the industry will fare throughout the next film year. Its positive, "in the black" outcome needs to be seconded by some hit productions not attached to and associated with any festival or official film event.

"NO OTHER WOMAN," Record-breaking hit.

That "second elimination" proof came soon enough, with the mega hit that "No Other Woman" turned out to be. In fact, the "romantic triangle" smash was so enthusiastically patronized by local film fans that it set a new record at the tills.

Also instructive was the fact that it starred not the usual superstars, but still young-ish leads, indicating some sort of "changing of the guard" in terms of stellar record drawing "pull" and clout.

Another upbeat indication of

related stories on

FPJ's dad was an accomplished actor and director

By Lynn S. Pareja

OF ALL the present directors and stars of Philippine cinema, one of the most famous was Fernando Poe Sr., FPJ's father. He died at only age 59 after starring in 54 movies from 1936 to 1941, as well as producing and directing 14 more pictures from 1946 to 1950.

For most have had a premonition that he wasn't going to live long, because he was in a "hurry" to establish himself as a matinee matinee (he had a degree in chemistry from UP) as an actor/director, and as a comedian.

Good looks

Because of his good looks, excellent physique and acting talent, he was tapped to co-star with Rosa del Rosario in the silent 1936 drama, "Nag Alabang Sikiyang Dambana."

By the time he made his second feature,

FPJ on

FOR (RIGHT). His most popular movie as a director was Rosa del Rosario's version of "Darna."

www.smcinema.com

SM CINEMA

IMAX THEATRE

SM MALL OF ASIA | SM NORTH EDSA

SM SOUTHMALL | SM CEBU

metro manila

SM MALL OF ASIA | SM MEGAMALL | SM CITY SAN LAZARO | SM NOVALICHES | SM CITY BICUTAN

SM CITY BACOOR | SM CITY STA. ROSA | SM CITY MARILAO | SM CITY CLARK | SM CITY PAMPANGA | SM CITY BALIWAG | SM CITY GAPAN | SM CITY SAN JOSE | SM CITY CABANATUAN | SM CITY TARLAC | SM CITY DASMARIÑAS | SM CITY BACOLOD | SM CITY ILOILO | SM CITY GENSAN

luzon

SM CITY OLONGAPO | SM CITY LIPA | SM CITY LUCENA | SM CITY CALAMBA | SM CITY BATANGAS | SM CITY STA. MESA | SM CITY BAGUIO | SM CITY SAN PABLO | SM CITY TUGUEGARAO | SM CITY LEGAZPI | SM CITY NAGA | SM CITY DAVAO | SM CITY CEBU | SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO | SM CITY ILIGAN

visayas + mindanao

SM CITY DAVAO | SM CITY CEBU | SM CITY ILOILO | SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO | SM CITY ILIGAN

HOTLINE: 470-22-22 / WEBSITE: www.smtickets.com
Get them at any SM Cinema Ticketbooths nationwide

EVENTS LIST | DATE & TIME | VENUE

VISIT www.smcinema.com AND PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE
PAYMENT VIA CREDIT CARDS AND ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED.

OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD AND DRINKS
AT ALL SM CINEMA LOBBIES

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

For ticket reservations and screening schedule pls. visit:
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

Like us on
Follow us on

GALLERIA | MANILA | METRO EAST | NOVALICHES | FORUM ROBINSONS

WATCH AND WIN
AUTOGRAPHED BOXING GLOVES
OF MANNY "PACMAN" PACQUIAO!

TICKET PRICES:

STA. ROSA | LIPA | DASMARIÑAS | STARMALLS | IMUS | ANGELES | TACLOBAN | DUMAGUETE | BACOLOD | ILOILO | GENSAN | ILOCOS NORTE

NO registration. NO membership. NO hassle.
JUST CLICK & WATCH

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

Buying your tickets and snacks is as easy

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD ONLINE BOOKING

'Puss in Boots' is the cat's meow

By Nestor U. Torre

ANTICIPATED Scarano pulls off adroit balancing act.

Fairy tales cast spell on US television

"ONCE UPON A TIME" Is wonderful characters don't always have a happy ending.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

TRESPASS – R13 | TOWER HEIST – PG13 | PAYBACK BENJAMIN – PG13
IN TIME (EN ES) – PG13 | THE THING – PG13 | PUSS IN BOOTS (EN ES) – 3D

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW!
PACQUIAO MARQUEZ III
For inquiries, please call 888-4440 to 41

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 PUSS IN BOOTS
2 IN TIME
3 TOWER HEIST
4 PAYBACK BENJAMIN
THE THING
Shang's Lo Fang

NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK
ANTONIO BANDERAS
PUSS IN BOOTS 3D

APPROVED WITHOUT CUTS!
NOW SHOWING
THE #1 HORROR MOVIE IN AMERICA!
THE THING
IT'S NOT HUMAN. YET.

SM CITY LUCENA
SM LUCENA CINEMA
3D SILVER SCREEN
TRESPASS | PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3 | THE THREE MUSKETEERS
REAL STEEL | THE THING | PUSS IN BOOTS
AIRBORNE | PAYBACK BENJAMIN | IN TIME
TOWER HEIST

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE MALL
PROMENADE

GOT FRIDAYS

NEWS. Read full story on page A2

FANS' DAY

Appeal from Mindanao

By Andy Bati

MARIEL NEYRA, broadcast journalist from Davao, sent this appeal to media colleagues: "Please stop using 'virus' or 'bagsakan' as film claims' to your news reports. Mindanao is a big island. While it's true that tragedy really happened in Bankal, it's only a small part of a bigger land area. It's disrespectful to all relatives in Mindanao in peace. People who weren't from here tend to think there's chaos all over the island.

"If a breaking national typhoon in Makati or Manila, you wouldn't call it a 'Luzon crisis,' would you? Please be more sensitive, because media affects viewers' consciousness. Choose your words well in your news accounts."

Other notes:

Andy Mashingail, retired **government employee**: "The broadcast of 'Pilipinas Got Talent' Season Three has been made to be desired. I have nothing against the winners. But, let's face it—they didn't really excel in their performances during the finals, compared to El Gamma Penacillin, Jeremy of The Lovesticks Kids, Oshi-oh-ganda, none of the latter headed to the top three.

Result

"Before the announcement of winners, the hosts reiterated that it was the public that did the choosing, through text voting, intimating God they didn't agree with the results. I hope that the people behind 'PGT' will do something about the moderators of the judging and not have their eyes set merely on profit."

Glecty Garing, student: "It was unjustified to see inconsistent confrontation scenes in enough zombie sins of those terrible times. And, I don't envision this time."—Pergicol Hendy, author

Answer

One answer: Yes, this material would be exact and vulnerable. Because if can't see and hear, don't give up and don't lose hope, because we have a wonderful brave system to.

We, the eternal entity temporarily held in deteriorating material bodies. Destroying them less terrible karmic repercussions.

The answer lies in achieving self-education and true liberation—by going on a journey back to our real abode, Self, and you shall find it!

E-mail judeleacarpio@gmail.com

Parting words of 'wisdom'

LOTUS POND

R. Salvacion and N. Bonnevie

'WOOLF' Two didn't leave.

JUDE THE Intrepid and his friends, the admirers of material existence. Their limitations are expressed in three "parting" notes.

"And so, I leave this world, where the heart must either break or turn to lead."—Nicolás Sebastián Chanchet, nonprofit worker

"I must end it. There's no hope left. I'll be at peace. No one had anything to do with this—my decision, totally."—Franklin Peñaso, counselor

"Dear World, I am leaving you because I'm bored. I have lived long enough. I am leaving you with your worries in that sweet cesspool. Good luck."—George Asunción, British sailor

"The future is just old age and illness and pain. I must have peace, and this is the only way."—Amoni Whaels, Miss Universe

"I feel certain that I'm going and again. My soul's go

Answer

One answer: Yes, this material world is cruel and vulnerable. Because if can't see and hear, don't give up and don't lose hope, because we have a wonderful brave system to.

We, the eternal entity temporarily held in deteriorating material bodies. Destroying them less terrible karmic repercussions.

The answer lies in achieving self-education and true liberation—by going on a journey

JACKSON. Ryan popping tribute.

Michael Jackson gets 'Cirque' treatment

DETROIT—Cirque du Soleil's new show is based on the music of the King of Pop, "Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour" recently made its US debut at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit, only a handful of miles away from the old Motown Records headquarters, where Jackson got his start as a member of The Jackson 5.

As previous shows have done with the music of the Beatles and Elvis Presley, the two-hour (without-intermit) performance is designed to delight audience members with the flair and showmanship of Cirque, coupled with the show mainstays of the late artist in concert.

"Michael was a performer who wasn't just music—he was also dance and classics and lived a lifestyle that," explained Kevin Antunes, the "Immortal" show's musical designer. "So, you can take all of that and put them together into the show. That's where the difference is."

Costumes

The eye-popping, high-wire acrobatics and elaborate costumes that are a hallmark of any Cirque show are present, of course, but there are a multitude of Jackson's specific touches.

Oversized versions of his signature accessories—gloves and pouty hairdos—come to life during a rock-star rendition of "Beat It."

Jackson's boot-scooting dance moves are all there, too. The Cirque performers do the patented "Smooth Criminal" lean forward during a jangled themed segment, and the third half of the show concludes with a rousing performance of "Thriller," which features the famous zombie boogie from the video in a Cirque-ky gave-rated.

See page B1

OPENS NOVEMBER 9 AT GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 3 & TRINOMA CINEMAS

"A BLOOD PUMPING THRILL RIDE OF A MOVIE"

RYAN GOSLING

Drive

Mainstream movies awaken . . .

from page B1

better times ago about the local movies was the good showing of two indie productions, "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank" and "Ekstradisyon." While they didn't break big records, the two flicks did respectable business in theaters in Manila and other indepen- dent productions that languish generally unseen and therefore unappreciated, before exploring from "first day first day" status.

Success

Then, just last month, a mainstream "pic" (namely "Everyday Pangarap" he a big in theaters, grossing more than P100 million on its opening week, if the deepest for keeps delighting viewers, a could match "No Other Woman's" unprecedented success.

Even more remarkable the comedy flick exploits a relatively new film star, the unabashedly gay boy

Gands. That a new lead can do so well is noteworthy enough; what makes Vice's feat even more remarkable is the fact he's been racking out to be the heavies' first and only big hitmaker in a country that has relegated gay entertainers to grossly "unfunny" and "beauty pageant" status. Vice's success is well nigh unparalleled.

Sure, Dolphy has had his share of hits in transvestite and cross-dressing roles, but viewers know it's all in our fun, some guys have entered in films, but they generally haven't hit it big.

Viewing populations

With just two hits under his belt, Vice is already the "queen" of the room—and he's not only the genre- bender might currently be producing but untrained hair should be discussed to present detail in a future thick piece.

For now, it's enough to cast aside saying that the local movie industry's worst (bare) seven years of feminine appear to be ending...and that's something we should all celebrate.

From a high of 209 films scanned by the movie-house industry's output has shrunk to as few to 38 to 40 movies a year, leaving many film workers jobless. So, the more hits or stuff of better times ahead is most welcome.

But, have we learned the lessons that we decide of financial and artistic deprivation should have taught us? Or, now that our coffers has abated, will it be (holy) business as usual again?

Will our producers go back to making ghosts, bomoh, quickies and other "commercial" genres and preferences be granted? —So, this would be two dumb and corrupt-ate eras he or church or wood?—

FPJ's dad was an accomplished . . .

from page B1

"Zamboanga," he was already a big star. In 1939, Eddie Mesa paired him up with Carmen Rosario "Pearl of Bataan," followed by "Luzon, Love Story," "Bongging Lungs" (with Mario Montalvo, and 1938 Pepino) "Labo Ito," alongside Rodolfo Vol And Hear de Los Dilocos Lucy, and directed by Carlos Vander Tolosa.

Before World War II broke out, the stands Dave pictures, Eduardo de Castro's "Dayuning Sultan," "Parang Dandaan" and "Bulan," costarring Dave Jimenez and Mona Lisa.

During the war, the Japanese produced the propaganda film, "Dawn of Freedom," which was very anti-American. To offset this, the actor decided to produce, direct and star in FPJ's "Daga ng Bayan (Patriotic Blade)."

Among the other movies he helmed was Mars Ravelo's "Barya" (starring Rosa del Rosario), his own homage film as a director. He also filmed the almost autobiographical feature, "Aeroscores," about a USAFFE officer. Robredo, who comes home after the war and finds that his girlfriend has become a nun! The film broke box-office records.

Underwater scenes

He also did "Limbas," in which he depicted a Filipino Tarzan opposite Rolando Gomez. Set in Bindanao and the most outstanding bits, it featured amazing underwater scenes, swashbuckling pirate raids and ornamental dances. As the Manila Times then noted, "A whole village was featured for authenticity."

"Walang Kapantay" starring Gloria Sevilla and Jose Padilla Jr., completed his dramas about multiply love, which began with 1947's "Pilabuy ng Talibala" (about was someone), and "Sarah-Bawa."

In 1950, the Best Movie Child Award for Best Child Star was won by Mila Ocampo for Peter Thursday's starring Carmen Rosales and Danilo Medina. Pete Sr.'s other films: "Sinta at Dalaya," "Pagibig," "Mga ulanang Hampaslupa," "Pamela, Ang Mutya ng Pahuglio," "63 Madia," and "Kung sa Maraka," his last film (1951).

Fernando Poe Jr. was married to the late Susan Roces, with whom he has six children: Elizabeth, Ronald Allan, Andy Frederick, Jennifer and Evangeline. His eldest son, who later decided to use the screen name Fernando Poe Jr., was only 12 years old when Poe Sr. died from cirrhosis.

Kelly Clarkson is as strong as ever in latest album

NEW YORK — Kelly Clarkson is a contrast. She released her new album, "Stronger," this week and thinks it is her best work ever—but, whenever something like that happens, she worries that nobody will like it.

The 11-song collection finds Clarkson working with new songwriters on some tunes and exorcising in words her own issues, which she has "never been writing 'divorce album' in 2012 [Ed. apt.]."

While many past "Idol" winners have failed to rise to the heights of superstardom, Clarkson has enjoyed chart-topping success with pop rock singles such as "Miss Independent" and the smash hit, "Since I Been Gone."

But, at 29, the Texas native now has seven birds flights and feels in her career, and she knows that even if she doubts her songs are great, the fans are the ultimate decision-makers. "Whenever you have something at stake—and I think this is my best album yet—sometimes, it seems like not so much going to like it," she said of "Stronger."

Highs and lows

Many of the songs in the new album find Clarkson in uncomfortably charged turns. The sound swirls after the line between big dance numbers and sensitive confessional, which has become her signature calling card.

Clarkson calls the album "very intense" and said she felt she had a lot of energy and "could shout" in your face it. She likened such energy to the "over coffee-counter talk. Socially, that's when I love doing." The energy to celebrate on the first single, "My Know It All," as well as Bee-type anthems such reassures of "You Can't Win" and the electro-rock reassurances of "Let Me Be Sorry."

Lyrically, the songs dwell heavily on relationships and empowerment, two subjects that have been highlights of her much-discussed life.

"I love writing and singing songs about real life situations—especially about relationships," she shared. "Everyone wants to feel they're not alone in a thought. That's the best feeling I get, when I hear a song and it's like, 'Yes, me, too!' That's the coolest thing in the world—to write something that can be relatable to other human beings."

Range

"Stronger" continues to reflect her signature range in musical styles, as evidenced by the dance-pop of "What Doesn't Kill You (Stronger)," the changed rock 'n' roll of "Mistletoe," and the power ballad, "Standing In Front of You."

Kwa'ave CLARKSON. Emotionally charged confidence. AP

Yapan's film interweaves poetry and dance

YAPAN (LEFT). Baptism of fire.

By Rina Arevalo

BACOLOD — Ian and Jason Yapan, the artists behind "Yapan," will be in Bacolod for the launch of their film "Yapan" at the Ayala Malls Capitol Central on Nov. 8 at 7 p.m.

"Yapan" is a collaboration between

Director recalls near plane crash with Johnny Depp

LOS ANGELES—The way "The Rum Diary" director Bruce Robinson recounted it, had the private jet crashed off the West Coast, he and Johnny Depp would have exited this world ... laughing hysterically.

Robinson and Bruce, who wrote Roland Joffé's Oscar-winning "The Killing Fields" and directed the acclaimed "Withnail and I," were flying back to LA after location scouting for "The Rum Diary." "We were drinking on first class, and we were sitting there," recalled Bruce, who starred as an actor in Francis Zeffirelli's "Romeo and Juliet" (he played Benvolio). He conversed with bobsledder Arjinn in Finnish Turkheer's classic, "The Seven of Adele 38."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ashon S. Anjenkes

Expensive wine

"I wasn't paying for it," Bruce quipped about the expensive wine he and Johnny were drinking while the flight-deck crew powers on both engines. "It was more than one bottle. This was very much before we started shooting the film. Suddenly the whole thing goes silent—nothing. We're looking out of the window, and the fuselage is there, but it's starting to zoom like this (swivels his hands)."

Johnny said Bruce, who wrote "The Rum Diary" a film adaptation of Hunter S. Thompson's debut novel of the same title, "I'll bet the word—the kind of bullish[*sic*] one." Bruce smirked. "He said, 'Yes, you're doing it. You've got to do it.' I was embarrassed to say it. But, he's such an enormous film star that I acquiesced to his confidence in me. I said, 'OK, I'll give it one last shot.' I did it. And, that's why I'm here."

He got curious about the film that made him—or never redirect again. He obliged. He named the film "Jennifer Eight," which was released in 1992 and starred Andy Garcia and Uma Thurman. "It was a

ROBINSON: Returns to directing in "The Rum Diary"

gruesome, horrible expect movie with an actress who's dead. I never really getting it on. I mean, I'm told the whole cockpit, but it should be getting on like a plane crashing. It was unbelievable because—"

Asked what he had been up to since his last film, Bruce replied, "I'm busy writing. That's what I do—I'm a writer. I had a very unpleasant experience with a movie-in-town here (LA) some years ago. I determined that I would never want to direct another film. I hope my promise for 17 years—until Johnny came along."

Novel

Johnny starred Bruce's debut "The Rum Diary" a film adaptation of Hunter S. Thompson's debut novel of the same title. "I'll bet the word—the kind of bullish[*sic*] one,"

homeworld

SM

DEPARTMENT STORE

homeworld

BUYS BELOW P300

round 8" wall clock

P129.75

EASYFRAME 7-in-1 photo frame 11.25" x 10"

P249.75

REED diffusers with rattan sticks 50ml

P149.75 ea.

wall frame with art prints 12" x 16"

P249.75

Harlem 5pc glass serving bowl set

P129.75

Sunrise 7pc water jug set with floral motif

P229.75

cordless electric kettle 1.7L

P295

mugs with gift containers

P249.75 ea.

food container and handy bottle gift set

P249.75

easy grip jug 2L / drinking bottle 700ml

P109.75 ea.

2pc small serving bowls

P270

CANOPY basic bedroom slippers

P299.75

CANOPY 2pc hand towel gift set, plain

P299.75

MARTEL 1pc hand towel gift set, bright solids

P199.75

homeworld

BUYS BELOW P500

Atom 10" wall clock P349.75

2pc wall frames with floral design 12" x 6" P395

hosh

Peoria 5pc oiled spice jar set P349.75

2pc canvas frames 12" x 12" P499.75

circular 9" photoframe wall clock P349.75

Executive lunch bag set P459.75

rice cooker with steamer 1L P495

stainless steel cordless kettle 1.7L P495

neck massager pillow P399.75

BIOKIPS

2pc food containers P349.75

2pc rectangular food containers P359.75

ESPRIT

2pc plain hand towels P499.75

MARTEL

2pc kids face / bath towels P399.75

Canadian

disney pillows P399.75 ea.

homeworld

BUYS BELOW ₱1,000

Sunburst 16" wall clock ₱799.75

GOGO photo collage 20"x24" ₱749.75

aluminum pressure cooker 6L ₱995

3D coffee maker 10-cup ₱899.75

Diamond photo frame wall clock 11" x 2" ₱699.75

oven toaster 7L ₱695

rice cooker 1.8L ₱695

Maxi lunch bag set ₱549.75

2-in-1 server ₱799.75 ea.

Eco Life ivory mug 400ml ₱549.75

CANOPY 3pc towel set ₱999.75

FAMILY HOME microfiber blankets ₱799.75 ea.

MARTEL bath wrap and slippers set ₱899.75

Canadian 3pc towel set ₱899.75